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The Westerner

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Please e-mail:
thewesternersn@yahoo.com

WNEC's impending name change

By: Alex Tusia

Image: wnec.edu

In 1919, our lovely hidden gem in Springfield, Massachusetts opened its doors not as Western New England College but as the Springfield division of Northeastern University. It was not until 1951 that the school was renamed Western New England College and was then separated from Northeastern University. Once again, sixty years later, a name change will happen again. At the pace that our school is going at right now, by July 1, 2011, our school will transcend from a college to a university. The name will stay the same with just the addition of the university at the end making us Western New England University as a way of preserving our continuity and maintaining our history.

Barbara Campanella, the vice president for marketing and external affairs, spoke with The Westerner and was able to give us more insight on the transition that our school will most likely be making. "The transition to a university is a part of Western New England College's strategic plan to accurately identify ourselves based on our structure and reputation. Due to our many schools of learning and various departments around campus, we have been activating at the same capacity as other schools accredited as universities just on a smaller scale".

With something as simple as a name change, the future of our school will be very different in many ways. One goal from the name change is to recruit more international students. In Europe and many other countries around the world, the term "college" implies a form of high school or trade school and this makes our school appear unappealing. By changing to a university, it will hopefully attract more students from other countries and help to diversify our school. Another positive aspect from the name change would be the increase in funding as well as support from government and private donors.

Although changing the name of a school seems like a simple situation, it is in fact complicated and very beneficial. The process has been long and tedious but the Board of Higher Education has taken time to review our situation and help us in our journey. By July 1 of this summer, the announcement will be official and our transition will commence from a college to a university. Perhaps the transition will not affect us directly for some time, but will as it slowly but surely creeps up on us with enormous impact. The word is not official yet, but you heard it from the Westerner first, Western New England University may be closer than we think.

Spring event concert announced

By: Alex Tusia

Image:Swotti.com

On Wednesday, February 9, the announcement was made for WNEC's spring event. The main act will be the Goo Goo Dolls with popular songs, "Name," "Slide," "Iris," and many others. The opening act will be Vanessa Carlton who is known for her songs, "White Houses" and "A Thousand Miles." Last year for spring event, WNEC went with what was popular and what most students were listening to at the time. This year they decided to go a different way and go for more of a throwback show as a tribute to the 1990's. Both artists are not heard as much on the radio anymore, but are surely a household name and pleasant memories from over a decade ago.

The show will be held on Saturday, April 9 in the AHLC at 9 p.m. In the coming weeks leading up to the show, ticket sales will start on February 21 from 12 to 2 p.m. in the Rock everyday. Tickets will cost $5 for students and $15 for visitors. Even though this may be overpriced for this show, all of the proceeds will be donated so even if you do not like either of the acts, at least you will be helping a good cause. There will be many events and give away prizes after tickets sales start, such as V.I.P passes and special seating for certain tickets.

Even though the committee decided not to go with a popular artist that all of the campus would recognize and enjoy, hopefully this will still be a solid performance. For those of you that wish to send your feedback to the Spring Concert Chair who picked this year's performance, contact Kaylee McDonald by writing to The Westerner and we will be sure to pass your carefully chosen words on to her. Only time will tell if this year's performance will be a memorable event or a horrible decision.

NEWS

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Sophomore Experience Abroad students return

By: Jeremy Leavens

Image: WNEC School of Business

This semester marks the return of 13 sophomore business students to the Western New England College campus after studying in London for a semester thanks to the program *Sophomore Experience Abroad* (SEA).

The past fall was the first year implementing the SEA program, which offers sophomore business students the opportunity to study abroad in London in partnership with Richmond International University. Benefits of enrolling to study abroad in the first semester of sophomore year are numerous. There is no extra cost in travelling abroad with the SEA program, as the tuition and room and board charges are the same as if you were studying on campus at WNEC. The College even pays for the airfare to and from England. The only costs to the student are personal costs and personal spending while in London (which there will be plenty). WNEC faculty also rotate teaching time in London in 3-week intervals, ensuring that students will still receive the quality required of an AACSB accredited business education.

The students returning to WNEC came back with a much different view of the world from a truly global perspective. Students in the trip had the chance to travel to different European countries including, France, Germany, Netherlands, and Italy, just to name a few. SEA'ers also now have forged relationships with students from every continent in the world (excluding Antarctica). London offers a global perspective that simply cannot be matched at Western New England College.

Studying abroad also involves providing a framework for the future of both one's studies and professional careers. The experience can be placed on every one of the participants' resumes, highlighting the ability to interact and succeed in a global environment. Relationships are also developed with every one of the faculty members that make the trip across the pond. These relationships continue even upon return to the campus.

In addition to all of these important factors in developing personally and professionally, studying abroad is above all, fun. Travelling is an exciting and enjoyable practice and there is no shortage of sights to see in London. From the Big Ben and Parliament, to Trafalgar Square, Tower Bridge, Shakespeare's Globe Theater, Westminster Abbey, and St. Paul's Cathedral, just to name a few of the more notable sites, are easily accessible through public transportation. In addition, the nightlife in London is bar none, as there are always places to show off your impressive dance skills.

If you ore interested in applying for the Sophomore Experience Abrood, contact the progrom coordinotor, Dr. Jeanie Forray at 413-782-1702.

Gateway RA's host pre-super bowl bash

By: Jeremy Leavens

Sunday is always a special event in the eyes of many Americans and international citizens. One day people do not hear about often, however, is the eve of this monumental sporting event. This year, the RAs of Gateway set out to change that as they hosted a "Super Bowl Eve Late Night Party" in the Rock of the Campus Center on the night of Saturday, Feb. 5.

19 hours before the opening kickoff, paper footballs were flying across tables and beanbag footballs were flying through the air at targets. These were just a few of the activities that the Gateway RAs organized for students seeking an alternative way to spend their Saturday night and a way to get hyped up for the big game. In addition to the paper table football and football toss, t-shirts were available to be tie-dyed, as well as a nacho bar loaded with options for toppings.

With the pre-game hype of Sports Center in the background, attendees discussed their plans for Super Bowl night, along with their thoughts and opinions of who would win the big game. Students from a variety of classes and residence halls attended and all had an enjoyable evening. The Gateway RAs did a great job organizing and hosting this pre-Super Bowl bash.

Image:Peachygreen.com

News

WNEC celebrates Black History Month

By: Jackie Clarke

Image: Hannah Berling

Western New England College is now presenting an exhibition, "The Seventh Son: Two Unreconciled Strivings" by painter Omarthan Clarke during Black History Month now through March 3 in the Art Gallery in the St. Germain Campus Center.

The exhibition is part of the College's celebration of Black History Month that features Clarke's work inspired by W.E.B. DuBois' text, "Souls of Black Folk."

"Currently, my work has been threaded by issues and ideas relevant to the African American community," said Clarke. "My overarching goal is to progressively learn more and more about the Black bloodline, spirit, and history; if possible discovering the epitome of 'Blackness'."

Omarthan Clarke was born in Jamaica and raised in Springfield where he discovered his passion for painting. Clarke worked in the South Bronx as the Founding Art Teacher for the Eagle Academy for Young Men after graduating college in 2007. He established a curriculum and culture of artistic expression through scholarship at the Eagle Academy. In 2009, he returned to Massachusetts where he established a studio at the Indian Orchard Mills Artist Collective.

Clarke provided insight into his work during a gallery talk on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. The Gallery also hosted an opening reception on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 1 – 3 p.m. where the events were free and open to the public.

General Art Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Housing verification payment due

By: Jackie Clarke

It is rapidly approaching that time of the year again where on-campus students will begin researching housing selections for the next academic term, including finding roommates, a residence hall to live in and of course the most important step before being able to do anything else, paying your housing verification payment of $500 by Wednesday, March 9.

Once the housing payment is made, it is non-refundable. To make the housing payment, log into MyWNEC using a WNEC I.D. and password and click on the Billing tab. After that, choose to pay the housing deposit and pay your bill with either a credit card or electronic check. For more information for this option, contact the Bursars office. The other options are to pay by credit or check. To pay with check, send the housing payment check to Student Administrative Services, followed by the College address. Be sure to include name, student I.D. number, and specify that it is a housing payment. Checks will not be accepted if made out to Residence Life and be sure to give postal service enough time to deliver it before March 9. To pay with credit, the only credit cards that accepted are Discover and MasterCard; no other credit cards will be accepted.

On Wednesday Feb. 16, the residence halls will host housing selection floor meetings followed by open house tours at 9 p.m. in the sophomore and upper-class areas for students interested in taking a look at what residence halls they were thinking of living in. Later in the semester, each area will be holding programs designed for students to meet roommates to find a compatible roommate to live with or if a group doesn't have enough people for the apartment/suite size they want.

For current first-year students, the information for the LaRiv selection process for next year is available on the Residence Life webpage. Applications are due Friday, Feb. 18 for those interested in applying for LaRiv. Look at the materials as soon as possible since the application requires some effort. The written application, GPA average of the group, BEAR points group average, and judicial history points are all taken into consideration during the evaluation process upon completion of the application. For more information or questions about the LaRiv application process, contact Kristin Glinzak, Resident Director of the LaRiviere Center at kglinzak@wnec.edu

In addition to the housing process, Residence Life has made some new implementations that on-campus living students may be interested in. Gender Neutral Housing is still available to juniors and seniors and now in addition to sophomores and sophomore living areas, including, Plymouth and LaRiv. If students are applying for LaRiv and Gender Neutral Housing, both require separate application processes. The application process for Gender Neutral Housing is available on the Residence Life website.

Residence Life has also decided to allow graduate students that will be attending a WNEC graduate program to become Resident Advisors. Requirements for graduate RAs are that students must be enrolled in a WNEC graduate program, cannot be a first year law student, and may not be able to apply for a Residence Manager position. Students cannot apply for both a Resident Manager position and graduate student RA and need to choose to apply for one or the other.

"The benefit of allowing RAs to reapply as graduate students is that we can keep a quality RA for an additional year, they can provide extra guidance and support for new RAs, and it helps provide support for the ever growing number of graduate and law housing students in Gateway," said Area Coordinator of Traditional Housing, John Mayo. "I think it's a great idea because not all of our staff is ready for or wanting to become a Residence Manager. Also, with the limited number of spaces available to apply to be an RM, applying to be a graduate RA gives the student another option."

For additional information on this process, contact John Mayo, Area Coordinator of Traditional Housing at jmayo@wnec.edu or Becky Budynciwicz, Area Coordinator of Non-Traditional Housing at bb281800@wnec.edu.

Information on all housing selection, including Gender Neutral Housing and LaRiv as well as FAQs are available on the Residence Life webpage at www1.wnec.edu/residencelife or contact Sean Burke, Associate Director of Residence Life for Operations at spburke@wnec.edu. Also, feel free to connect with the RA of your specific area with any other additional questions. Housing selection dates will begin with seniors on March 28 at 2 p.m. and end April 19 with sophomores.

Entertainment

Five Times August small concert at WNEC

By: Hannah Berling

Image: Hannah Berling

The Campus Activities Board started their spring programming with a bang as the small concert committee, headed by newly appointed chairperson Carol Haskell, brought acoustic musician Five Times August to campus.

Roughly 60 students gathered in the Rock Café on Saturday, February 5 to listen to the music of Brad Skistimas, the musician who goes by the name Five Times August. This concert marked the Campus Activities Board's start to a busy spring semester of programming. It also triggered the beginning of programming for CAB's newly appointed e-board, starting with the new small concerts chairperson.

"Five Times August was great to work with. He gave us a fantastic show and he loved coming to WNEC to perform for us," said freshman Carol Haskell, CAB's new small concerts chair.

Students in attendance at the concert also enjoyed themselves and the music. While he is not signed by a major record label or played on the radio, some students recognized Five Times August's music from popular shows like *Laguna Beach* and *Degrassi*.

"My friend had posted a video a couple of weeks before the show and I fell in love with the song. The concert reinforced that his music is awesome and that he is a fantastic musician," stated junior Steph Hart, who uses Skistimas' song, "Better with You" as the ringtone on her phone.

Whether the music was an old favorite or it was a new tune, WNEC students showed their support for the concert and the music. In return, Skistimas showed his appreciation by staying after his set, taking pictures and signing autographs.

This concert was just the start of a packed schedule of events for the Campus Activities Board which will continue bringing more exciting and unique programs to the Western New England College campus.

Book review: Zero Regrets

By: Hannah Berling

Image: Timesdispatch.com

Apolo Anton Ohno is a speed skater with many titles: eight time Olympic medalist, most decorated American winter Olympian of all time, three time speed skating World Cup champion, and even Dancing with the Stars champion. Now Apolo has a new title to add to his name, New York Times best-selling author.

Ohno released a new book in the fall entitled *Zero Regrets* and to say that this is simply another athlete writing another autobiography would be a drastic understatement. While the book is an account of Ohno's career with focus on growing up with a single dad, making it big, winning medals, and winning a reality show it also leaves the reader with a feeling of inspiration.

Each chapter in *Zero Regrets* takes the reader on another journey in Ohno's life and leaves them with another lesson. The book contains precursors to each chapter in which a general lesson that can be taken away from the coming section of the book is laid out. While the reader will get an inside look into Ohno's life, they will also come away with powerful messages about giving it your all and never giving up.

The book becomes so much more than a sports story; it becomes a philosophy for life. Ohno writes in a way that keeps the reader engaged and leaves them with words to live by.

"It's not where you start, it's where you finish. And it's okay along the way to fail". This is a quote that can easily represent this book as a whole. Throughout his whole career, Ohno lived by this zero regrets mentality, and after finishing this book, the reader will have a desire to do the same.

Zero Regrets is also available as an audiobook with Ohno himself as the reader. This version of the book allows for the reader to feel even more connected with Ohno as his emotion is easily felt throughout the reading.

If your hope was to get more reading done in 2011 *Zero Regrets* is an excellent place to start. Ohno presents a motivational story that will keep the reader wanting more.

A new V-day show at WNEC

By: Andrea Melone

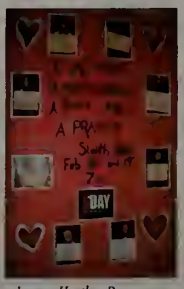


Image: Heather Perez

This year, the V-day Committee teamed up with the Stageless Players to create a unique benefit performance called, "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer."

Similar to "The Vagina Monologues," MMRP is a collection of monologues, which depict incidents of violence against women. Unlike "The Vagina Monologues," the MMRP monologue segments are both fictional and non-fictional pieces by famous writers, to then be performed by both male and female students.

The writings are inspirational, funny, angry, heartfelt, tragic, and beautiful. They are meant to demonstrate how violence against women and girls can affect everyone.

"I had so many guys audition!" exclaimed director Heather Perez excitedly. "I think it's important to include everyone because in order to stop the violence, you need to include everyone."

This Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 15 and 17, some of the performers will be previewing the event, reading monologues from scripts in the campus center at noon and 1p.m. The actual show will be on both Friday, Feb. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in Sleith 100. Tickets can be purchased at $7 general admission and $5 student admission.

All proceeds will be going to the V-Day organization to help stop violence against women and girls around the world.

Entertainment

Upcoming Campus Events

Wed. 2/16
5:00-6:00
Career Center: Webinar
"Help! I'm Graduating in May!"
CC6

Thurs. 2/17
12:45 PM
Athenaeum Series: Lunchtime Concert
D'Amour 319

5:30-9:00PM
Ebony Food Fest
Rivers
(hosted by U&Me)

Fri. 2/18
7:00 PM
"A Monologue, A Memory, A Rant & A Prayer"
Sleith 100
(hosted by VDay Committee)

11:00PM
Late Night @ the Rock:
Rock Café
(hosted by RHA)

Sat. 2/19
7:00 PM
"A Monologue, A Memory, A Rant & A Prayer"
Sleith 100
(hosted by VDay Committee)

11:00PM
Late Night @ the Rock:
Rock Café
(hosted by RHA)

Sun. 2/20
7:00 PM
Film: "Due Date"
Sleith 100
(hosted by CAB)

Mon. 2/21
2:00-6:00PM
Annual Health & Beauty Expo
HLC Lobby

Tues. 2/22
11:00-2:00PM
Jail Bail
The Rock
(hosted by Class of 2011)

Fri. 2/25
11:00PM
Late Night @ the Rock:
Rock Café
(hosted by RHA)

Sat. 2/26
6:00 AM
Ski/Snowboard Trip
Loon Mountain
(hosted by Outing Club)

8:00 PM
Dave & Ethan: College Dating Coaches
Rivers
(hosted by CAB)

11:00PM
Late Night @ the Rock:
Rock Café
(hosted by RHA)

Dream Date auction raises money, and awareness

By: Hannah Berling

The annual Dream Date charity auction was held by the Resident Hall Association on Feb. 10 and provided over $1,000 to the To Write Love on her Arms charity.

Roughly 25 Western New England College students from all grades put themselves up for auction to raise money for the To Write Love on her Arms charity, which is described on the organization's website as, "A non-profit movement dedicated to presenting hope and finding help for people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury and suicide". By the end of the evening, after all the bidding was done, RHA was able to raise over $1000 for the charity.

While the students who participated in the auction had no commitment to go on a date with the person who bought them, the theme of the night was appropriate for the Valentine's season. Even without the promise of a date, many students were still willing to spend their money for a good cause, and the students who were auctioned off felt equally inspired.

"It was a fun and truly rewarding experience. It felt great knowing that i was able to help make a difference," stated freshman Missy Sugrue, who sold for $30 at the event.

Image: Danielle Remigio

The students who raised the most money of the night were Hannah Laviolette and Christine Galinski who, as a pair, sold to a large group of students for $275.

The event was hosted by junior Chris Milanesi and sophomore Danna Mazzola, who acted as auctioneers and even got auctioned off themselves at the end of the night.

"It was a great experience to be able to raise money for such a great cause, on top of that, hosting with Chris was a blast because of our improv history together," Mazzola said. "It was definitely a great way to spend a Thursday night."

At the end of the night, students walked away having a good time, raising money, and learning about an organization with an important cause.

To learn more about the TWLOHA charity, visit their website at www.twloha.com.

Opinion

Commuting in the snow

By: Corinne Gamache

Image: Corinne Gomche

Did you see the segment about WNEC on ABC 40 on Tuesday, February 1? Yep, we made the news. Not for publishing breakthrough research or for more coverage of the new pharmacy building, but simply because WNEC canceled classes. For those of you who don't know, it is a cynical joke that the acronym of "WNEC" stands for "We Never Ever Close." The snow day was definitely needed, since more than a foot of snow and freezing rain descended on the region, crippling businesses and wreaking havoc on the roads for commuters and staff.

Even driving home after my 8 a.m. class on Tuesday was a nightmare (getting to WNEC was no picnic either, but getting home was worse). Like many New Englanders, I have an all-wheel drive car, which people mistakenly believe guarantees a free pass to magically drive through blizzards as if it was a dry spring day. All-wheel drive just means that if some of the wheels are slipping, the power is diverted to the wheels that aren't slipping to allow you to keep moving and turn and such. I probably wouldn't have made it home if it wasn't for my all-wheel drive, I saw quite a few cars on the side of the road and plenty others slipping and fishtailing.

Some other highlights of the trip was the car that wouldn't start again after the light turned green at an intersection and a tractor-trailer truck that completely blocked a three-way intersection, tires spinning uselessly as it tried to climb a snow-covered hill before the driver finally realized that he could not physically get up the hill and gave up. Most of the roads had only been plowed once, so by 10 a.m. they already had several inches of snow on them. The wind didn't help either, blowing drifts into the street and off the roofs of cars onto windshields, where the snow was already freezing to my wiper blades. The trip normally takes me thirty minutes, but on Tuesday it took me a little over an hour to crawl home.

It's pretty obvious that being a commuter in the winter sucks. You have to wake up an hour earlier just to find your car under a mountain of snow, then dig it out and thaw it out, journey through the New England tundra, and finally slide around the parking lot trying to find a parking space between the snow banks. I know it's going to be a good day when I get in my car and my hands don't freeze to the steering wheel. To avoid this and any other winter catastrophes, I keep two sets of gloves in my car, jumper cables, a scraper, a bottle of water, a blanket, and a team of sled dogs. Western Massachusetts would be a much friendlier place if we all commuted by dog sled.

The general policy for commuting during inclement weather is that "individuals should use sound judgment in assessing conditions in their local areas." I decide based on whether or not my street is plowed. I always try to get to class since, without the lecture, the notes from my engineering classes might as well be in Greek, and sometimes they actually are. Students are at a great disadvantage if they miss a class because they can't get on campus. By using "sound judgment" to stay home when there is bad weather, commuters fall behind their resident peers who only had to walk out their door onto sidewalks that are shoveled for them. So much information is packed into each class (even more for the hour-and-twenty minute Tuesday/Thursday classes) that making up work and getting notes from someone else often doesn't help in understanding the material at all and only forces the student to push back work from other classes to make up for the ones that were missed.

The reason that WNEC doesn't cancel classes anytime a snowflake hits the pavement is because it interferes with syllabi and pushes back scheduled exams but mostly it seems, like everything in life, it's for the money. Professors and staff are still paid on the days we get the snow day text and they aren't teaching, doing research, or hitting up alumni for donations, so WNEC loses money. Also, it is expensive to reschedule sports, programs, and events that are affected when the rest of the campus is closed. Colleges are run as businesses and if something is causing a business to lose money, it is avoided.

So as the snow piles up and the winter seems never-ending, remember that there is still a light at the end of the tunnel. Except that it's the headlights from a plow because it's not even the middle of February and we still have many snowstorms ahead of us. All I ask is that WNEC remember the commuters and that not all of us live less than ten minutes from the classroom, otherwise we'll be seeing dog sleds on campus instead of cars.

WNEC tutors take a hike

By: Jessica Koontz

On Sunday, January 23, the Western New England College Writing Resources Program held the fourth annual Writing Center Tutor Retreat. Tutors and administrators pushed north through frigid early morning blasts of winter to the historic Ambassador Bullit Reservation in Ashfield, Massachusetts.

For Writing Center tutors and administrators, the chance to spend time together as a group is one of the great benefits of the retreat. They feasted, took part in a game of Apples to Apples, snowshoed around the beautiful Bullit Reservation property, and laughter punctuated the day.

Nevertheless, the retreat facilitates an academic purpose too, which is to give the Writing Center Tutors the opportunity to share with one another insights on writing and writing tutoring approaches. This year's retreat gave the tutors the opportunity to explore the writing process and discuss the benefits of treating writing as a process.

Louise Pelletier, the Director of the Writing Center and a Professor at WNEC, and Chris Trevethan, the center's Professional Tutor led the group in a project that they had developed entitled, "The Writing Process: A Process, Not Product." This theme centered around the commonly misunderstood notion that teaching and tutoring writing should focus on the finished product that a student will hand in when a paper is due. It advocates the contemporary outlook of teaching writing as the "process of discovery" that it inherently is. This model also focuses heavily on the writer setting and achieving his or her own goals while writing a paper.

During the first part of the retreat, the tutors were asked to examine their own writing process. Individually, they created a visual layout of their own styles and approaches and then discussed their similarities and differences in small groups. After comparing and contrasting these diverse processes, Trevethan presented the model of The Cognitive Process of Writing and the concept of writer-based versus reader-based-prose.

The tutors openly discussed what integrating this process into their own tutoring sessions would entail. This centers around the idea that the writing process is not linear, and that the writer is able to bounce back and forth between the separate stages of writing, such as brainstorming and revising, so that a student's paper is never truly finished. By realizing this, the tutor is

Continued on page 7

Features

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

1) Winterize your vehicle by checking your air filter and fluid levels, checking tires for tread wear and proper inflation, and checking the condition of your wind shield wipers.

2) It may seem nice to come back from outside to a toasty warm room, but try to keep your room or apartment at a reasonable temperature. You'll conserve en ergy, and it won't make returning to the bitter cold as daunting.

3) When skiing or snowboarding prevent pollution. Take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but tracks.

4) Clean out your closets and give or sell used items to someone who needs them to reduces the cost to buy "new," and saves landfill space. This is an especially good time of year to donate to those less fortunate.

Tutors continued

meant to focus on working through these stages rather than creating a finished product.

After lunch, the tutors took part in a writing workshop led by Lisa Kerr, WNEC Professor and Director of Composition. This activity gave these tutors the rare opportunity to write about whatever they chose and to then to share it with their peers. Kerr presented verbal and visual prompts for writing and conducted a brief group meditation. In solitude, they free-wrote. After 45 minutes of exercising their writing muscles, each tutor read their work out loud. Members of the group gave their reactions and feedback; positive attributes were pulled from everyone's piece. Junior tutor, Samantha Sawin enjoyed this bonding experience, and said, "Overall, the retreat allowed for individual growth of the staff as Writing Center Tutors as well as a unique opportunity for the tutors to bond both as coworkers and as a family unit."

Now that the tutors are back on campus, and starting out their new semesters refreshed, they are excited to work with students who are interested in strengthening their writing processes.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Westerner Beer Review

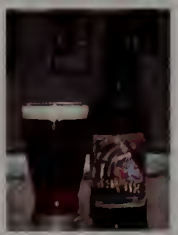
Pick Axe Pale Ale

By Canio Carlucci and Adie Giguere

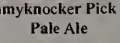
The Beer Pros

Note: All students imbibing alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNEC guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

For the first review of the semester we decided to go with something totally random. After a twenty-five minute trip to Winn that was more like a trip to Blockbuster, we returned with a $10 six pack of Pick Axe Pale Ale by TommyKnocker Brewery. With no expectations other than the obvious fact it is a pale ale, we cracked open a few bottles and got to work. Our first observation was a sweet citrus smell, followed by a first sip which revealed a medium bodied, mildly carbonated beer with the typical citrus/hoppy pale ale taste. Pick Axe, however, has slightly more of a citrus orange taste than most pale ales and we felt it was missing something, perhaps a crisp punch or a better aftertaste. But in the end, we both agreed that while it may be a tasty beer, it was nothing too special, especially at $10 a six pack. We give Pick Axe Pale Ale 3/5 beers, primarily because it is way too expensive for broke college students like us.



Tommyknocker Pick Axe Pale Ale



3/5 Beers

Living a Sustainable Life

By: Taryn Sidney

As part of an ongoing effort to turn Western New England into a sustainable campus, the WNE sustainability council has been hard at work determining just what it is that will make us sustainable. Back in the spring of 2009, was the very first meeting of the Sustainability Council. With representatives from each school, representatives from administration, and a few students including myself, the council was responsible for helping to facilitate Direction Six of the WNE Strategic Plan.

During the first meeting that was held not only did I take a sufficient amount of notes but I also learned a lot of new things about our campus. For instance I learned that Southwood would be a geothermal building. I also learned that the school was looking at energy efficient components for the new Center of Sciences and Pharmacy building like "chilled beam" construction. I didn't know these facts before but it is definitely true now as we have seen the development of both buildings. That meeting was full of ideas and initiatives that the college was looking to take in the next ten years or so to improve campus.

One early addition to our council was Michaela Simpson, Associate Professor of Sociology. Simpson was deep in the development of the Sustainability major that we now have on campus. When she first visited the council meetings she was excited about the directions that the sustainability major could go and she even mentioned that having it be a department by itself would be a large scale goal. As of last year the Sustainability major made good timing and started off its first courses. Although this wasn't a project of the council, one of our own was the mastermind behind its development.

Since the start of our council there have been so many ideas and projects floating around. Some of these projects include things like zipcars, web presence for sustainability, involvement of the sustainability club (which has happened!), pursuing grants, student employment, etc. We have had many guests who have taught us about sustainability efforts done by facilities and even efforts within the Springfield community. Because the council is partially responsible for facilitating the success of Direction six of the Strategic Plan, there is still a lot that will be done and more progress will be made.

Over the last year or so the council has made significant progress and added members who had an uncanny interest in sustainability. Each meeting ideas float around and progress is made to find the ways that Western New England can become more sustainable. The sustainability council has made the efforts, even if the student body doesn't realize it. The council is still working hard to bring a whole new light to the Western New England community and even if it takes years to do it, it certainly isn't for lack of effort. For such a new organization and as a member of the council I can assure you all that the council will not rest until it has done what it was designed to do. Keep your eyes peeled for efforts of sustainability on campus!

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you. Whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining come to the next meeting or send an e-mail to thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Meeting Time: Tuesdays@ 7 PM in Rivers Room 105

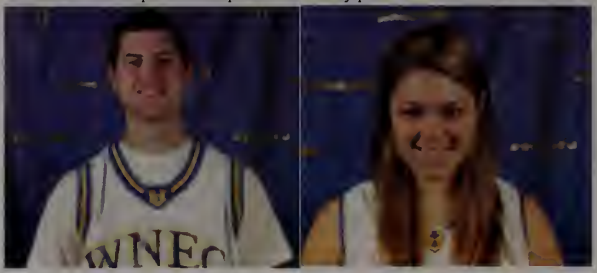
Sports

Athletes of the issue

By: Anthony Camardi

The star athletes for this issue of the Westerner are senior guard Chris Devine, from Wilbraham, Massachusetts, from the Men's Basketball team and sophomore center Elena Radzikowski, from Medway, Massachusetts, from the Women's Basketball team. They are being recognized for their outstanding performances in the past week's slate of games.

The Men's Basketball team had a strong week winning against Keene State College 95 to 83, Eastern Nazarene College 74-70, and New England College 64-58. During this three game winning streak Chris Devine averaged 18 points, 9.7 rebounds, and 4.3 assists per game. He also shot a combined 50 percent from the field making 16 of his 32 attempted shots, and shot over 95 percent from the free throw line going 20 for 21. During the week he posted two twenty-point games going for 21 points against Keene State and 23 points against Eastern Nazarene. To go along with his accolades Devine was also named The Commonwealth Coast Conference co player of the week.



The Women's Basketball team had similar success with wins against Eastern Nazarene College 81-53, and New England College 72-62. During these games Radzikowski provided a huge spark off the bench with 15 points in both games while shooting over 60 percent from the field. She shot 6 for 9 against Eastern Nazarene and 7 for 11 against New England College. To go along with her scoring Radzikowski chipped in with five rebounds and 2 steals.

Images:wnecgoldenbears.com

WNEC playoff hopefuls

By: Anthony Camardi

As the winter sports season nears its end the playoff picture is becoming more and more clear for Western New England College sports teams. As it stands the girl's basketball team and men's ice hockey team can make their respective postseason conference tournaments.

The women's basketball team is currently tied for the eighth and final playoff spot in The Commonwealth Coast Conference with Nichols College and New England College with a conference record of 5 wins and 6 losses. There are two games remaining on their schedule, at home against Anna Maria College on Wednesday February 16th at 5:30 PM and at home against Colby-Sawyer College on Saturday February 19th at 1:00 PM.

The men's ice hockey team is currently tied for the sixth and final playoff spot in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Northeast with Suffolk University with 6 points. There are two games remaining on their schedule as well, away at Nichols College on Wednesday February 16th at 8:10 PM and at home against Suffolk University on Saturday February 19th at 3:35 PM at Smead Arena in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Women and sports day event

By: Josh Goldberg

On Sunday February 10, Western New England College student-athletes, coaches, and dance team members volunteered during the 12th annual Girls and Women in Sports Day Event held in the Alumni Healthful Living Center. This event was led by Student Athletc Advisory Committee (SAAC) Vice President and student coordinator, Erin Doherty. The purpose of the event is to help show 300 girls from the area the benefits of sports and leading a healthy lifestyle, as well as vamp up the girls' enthusiasm for sports and team values.

Image: Kelci Keene

At this event, the girls attended many workshops held by all of the Western New England College women's sports teams (soccer, softball, field hockey, basketball, and volleyball), as well as the dance team and Martial Arts team. The Martial Arts team did a demonstration as well as talked to the girls about discipline and respect. After that, the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Jeanne Hart-Steffes gave an inspiring and motivating pep talk to the girls about following their dreams and believing that they can become anything they put their mind to. The girls were in awe of her when, at the end of her talk, did push-ups with them. The girls also stayed for the women's basketball game after the event and during half time some of the girls performed with the dance team.

"This was an amazing day," said Men's and Women's Tennis Coach Jennifer Kolins. "It would not have been possible without the volunteers' passion and commitment."

Testimonials from the parents of the girls who participated include their children gaining self-confidence, being inspired to join a new sport, and being motivated to exercise more.

"Girls and Women in Sports Day is a great community service event," said Erin Doherty. "It goes beyond one day of interaction with young girls. It is a day we as student athletes can change young girls' lives and perspective on sports. The fact that we have so many returning girls each year and that the event grows is a testament to our student athletes and their character as well as how the golden bear family works together to make a positive influence."

The 12th annual Girls and Women in Sports day event was a huge success, and it seems that everyone, from the girls who came, to everybody that helped make this a success, really got something out of it.

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The Westerner

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Goo Goo Dolls and Vanessa Carlton to headline spring event

By: Alexandra Carter

The Goo Goo Dolls will be performing at the 2011 Spring Event at Western New England College on April 9 at 8 p.m. The show will feature opening artist Vanessa Carlton and will take place in the Alumni Healthful Living Center. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and close at 9 p.m.

Tickets are currently being sold for $5 in the Campus Center on weekdays from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. These tickets will be available to only WNEC students until March 4. On March 7, the ticket price will increase to $10 and will also become available to WNEC Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Law students. Students may also buy up to two guest tickets for $10 each.

Image: Goo Goo Dolls

The Goo Goo Dolls are an alternative rock band from Buffalo, New York. The band consists of lead singer and guitarist Johnny Rzeznik, vocalist and bassist Robbie Takac, and drummer Mike Malinin. They released their first album in 1987 and their newest and ninth album in 2010. The Goo Goo Dolls have produced fourteen top ten singles, including "Iris"

Continued on page 3

WNEC takes steps to become a university

By: Chantel Branco and Tom LeClair

January 1 of this year was the beginning of a new decade and July 1 will usher in an era when our school will potentially open its doors for the first time as Western New England University. The possible change from a college to a university would elevate our status and if implemented could have vast opportunistic outcomes. Dr. Anthony S. Caprio, President of Western New England College, who spoke with GBTV and Barbara Campanella, Head of Marketing and External Affairs, spoke with The Westerner and gave some insight to the process of changing from a college to a university.

President Caprio and a team of other influential members have been executing a strategic plan to achieve university status. This plan has been in motion for many years and took its first big leap in 2007 when Western New England College opened its first PH.D. program in the area of applied behavioral analysis.

According to the Board of Higher Education, there are certain criteria that must be met for a college to be approved for university status. The necessary steps to become a university are quite prestigious, requiring a broad and comprehensive undergraduate program, a minimum of two doctoral degree programs, and at least four distinct fields or schools of learning.

One of the many aspects of why we are petitioning the committee for university status is that WNEC seems to be a small functioning university as it is. President Caprio explained, "One of the most important aspects of why we are [applying to] change to a university is that finally our title and name will reflect everything that we already are." With five schools of learning and a vast number of academic programs and degrees, WNEC fulfills well beyond the minimum requirements for a university. Other reasons for the change include attracting more international and national students, elevating our stature and also on the basis that most of the schools that we compete with are at the university level.

If the transition from college to university were to occur, one of the many changes would be that our schools of learning would ascend to colleges. The schools of Engineering, Business, Arts and Sciences, and Pharmacy would respectively become colleges while the School of Law would maintain the same name. On a smaller scale, most other changes would be exterior and aesthetic changes. A new logo has been selected and this would appear in place of the old. Banners, school apparel, sports logos, business cards, and even highway signs are just a few of the many other things that would change.

Although there would be many changes occurring, both President Caprio and Barbara Campanella stressed that if the school were to be approved for university status, we would grow academically but stay small in number of students. This would allow us to keep our values as a close-knit community while providing the best opportunities of a university. "We would retain the best features of a small school with a university standard education," stated Barbra Campanella.

Seniors graduating in May of this year will most likely be the last graduating class to receive diplomas that say Western New England College. Fret not seniors, the school will provide opportunity for anybody who has graduated from WNEC before the change in status to secure a new diploma emblazoned with the new name and seal.

Everyone at Western New England College is abuzz with the news of the possible transition from college to university. This change would mark a new beginning for the school and it would grant all students more offerings and possibilities alongside a unique learning experience.

NEWS

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WNEC investigating rental car options

By: Jeremy Leavens

Western New England College is proposing a program that would implement an on campus rent-a-car system for the fall 2011 semester.

The proposed system would allow students without on campus transportation to have an on-site option for navigating the region, avoiding the difficulties and constraints that sometimes come with using public transportation.

The program, which would feature all environmentally friendly cars, would help progress the college toward one of its more important goals in their strategic plan - improved sustainability. Additionally, one of the benefits of the program could be reducing the amount of cars on campus.

Richard Wagner, Director of Institutional Research and Planning, stresses "There are no plans to change the vehicle policy at Western New England College."

The school has received proposals from two separate rent-a-car companies; Hertz and ZipCar. A survey was placed on Manhattan for students to offer their opinions of the proposed program in mid-February. The senior staff of the college will use this data and all other information that can be gathered to make a decision on approving or denying the proposal in March or April.

ZipCar, founded in 1999, is one of the fastest growing car sharing companies. Charging an initial membership fee of around $30, members will then be able to rent cars at a very cheap hourly rate, usually ranging from $8 to $12 an hour. The company is present in over 50 cities in the U.S. and the U.K., and has partnered with over 175 colleges and universities in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. ZipCar specializes in environmentally sound, high mileage-per-gallon (mpg) vehicles, as every vehicle at least gets 28 mpg. This, Wagner says, "keeps rental rates low." Williams College and Smith College are two Western Massachusetts schools currently enrolled in the ZipCar program.

Hertz, a big name in rental cars, has over 90 years of experience. Their Connect program, which adapts a pay structure similar to that of ZipCar, was developed in 2008. Currently serving 48 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada, the Connect program is growing rapidly. With a Hertz office in the Springfield area, Wagner states that Hertz will "keep things local and flexible." Hertz also offers environmentally "green" vehicles that maintain a high mileage per gallon rate, and subsequently keeps charges low. Although the Connect program has not been implemented by any school in Massachusetts yet, it has spread through New England including locales at URI and University of New Haven.

In both proposals, all of the expenses would be inclusive in the charge for using the vehicle. This means that the renter would not need to pay for gas used, or maintenance on the vehicles. The program offers the opportunity for those who are as young as 18 to rent cars, which would not be possible when going to a traditional rent-a-car company. It is important to remember that these programs are *proposed* and are awaiting a decision sometime in the coming weeks.

Students get pampered at health and beauty expo

By: Hannah Berling

College can be a stressful experience, and sometimes all students want is to be pampered. On Monday February 21st Western New England College provided some pampering time at the annual Health and Beauty Expo.

The Health and Beauty Expo is a program that is put on by Health Services, along with the help of the Campus Activities Board, which provides health tips, as well as beauty services to students for free for an afternoon. This year's services included: eyebrow waxing, manicures, haircuts, blood pressure tests, and massages to students, all at no cost. The program also included free smoothies, grinders, nachos, and nutrition tips.

Kathy Reid, who is a nurse here on campus and was in charge of the program, discussed the importance of the day in an interview with ABC 40 news.

"It's about having a good time, especially during this winter where everybody's been so cooped up. It's a great time to get out and mingle with your other students and just have some fun and get things done for free."

Image: Hannah Berling

CAB e-board, who allocated some funding to the event, worked closely with Reid to create a "Minute to Win It" competition at the event. Junior Jessie Succoso was the CAB member who headed the competition this year. Students had the chance to compete in many of the challenges that appear on the show, competing for the chance to win numerous different prizes.

Students who attended the event took great pleasure in having these services provided to them for free.

"I loved having the services available for us, especially because I don't have a car on campus to go get those things done. Also, the volunteers all seemed professional and were very nice," stated freshman Jill Carneglia, who took advantage of the eye brow waxing at the expo.

Once all the haircuts were done, the nail polish was cleaned up, and food put away, it was back out into the snow for students and faculty, and time to wait to be pampered again next year.

News

Students take an alternative spring break

By: Andrea Melone

This spring break, groups of students and faculty will travel to Virginia, New York, Alabama, and Washington DC to do various forms of community service, as a part of the Alternative Spring Break program.

Alternative Spring Break has been a part of WNEC for the past 10 years, and has expanded: for the first time, there are four separate groups of ten, with a student leader, a faculty advisor, and eight student participants in each.

Rose Gage, advisor of CARE (Community Action Awards Everyone) and Assistant Director of Learning Beyond the Classroom, makes ASB possible for WNEC, as it is a country-wide program.

"I am thrilled to see the continued growth of ASB, which is celebrating its 11th year," stated Gage. "This is the first year for four trips, and it is wonderful to witness such support and enthusiasm as the program continues to gain increased recognition across campus."

One group will travel to Chesterfield, Virginia, and will work at Camp Baker with individuals of all ages with disabilities; this group is led by Allison Breen. Another group's focus will be on the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, New York specifically with issues with HIV and AIDS, led by Sarah Antosik. Environmental restoration in Talladega National Forest in Brent, Alabama will be the project of another group headed by Jillian Strycharz. The last group will be a part of the Youth Service Opportunities Project in Washington DC, working with issues surrounding hunger and homelessness, led by Dan Rich.

Students participating in these service projects are enthusiastic and eager to attend these trips, first timers and ASB returners alike.

"This will be my second time participating in ASB and I am pumped to be going to Talladega National Forest in Alabama," participant Michelle Wiggett said. "If I had to sum up the ASB experience in two words I would have to say it is both humbling and rewarding. I would not want to spend my spring break any other way!"

For your chance to take part in WNEC's Alternative Spring Break program next year, look for applications next fall.

U&ME host Ebony and Caribbean food fests

By: Josh Goldberg

The college's mutlicultural club, United and Mutually Equal hosted the Ebony Food Fest in Rivers Arena on February 17.

The Ebony Food Fest is a place for people to try foods that they might otherwise not try and a place to hear gospel music. With the help of many United and Mutually Equal members, the event went on from 6:30 to roughly 9 p.m. This is one of the many events that United and Mutually Equal puts on every year as a way to give students that ability to experience different cultures. In this case, it allowed students to experience the great food and a gospel concert.

Image: wnec.edu

This event featured traditional African American food and music. Many different gospel choral groups from the area came and sang along with a few dancers who also performed to gospel songs.

Work started weeks before the event and the planning was worth it. The day of the program, set up started at 5 p.m. and everybody was hard at work setting up to get ready for the event.

United and Mutually Equal also hosted another program, on Thursday February 24, the Caribbean Food Fest. The Caribbean Food Fest is a program hosted during the common hour in the Campus Center. At this event, there was free Caribbean food for any staff or faculty.

"The food was delicious, and I thought that the sugar cane was great!" commented a student who attended the event.

This is another program that is done to allow students to experience a different culture by trying food from that culture.

The members of the club United and Mutually Equal put in a lot of work to make this event a success. Set up the day of this event started at 11 a.m. and included deciding where the food and drinks would be as well as cutting the sugar cane and mangos to be served. The hard work that was put into both events showed as they were both very successful.

Cont. from front page

(1998), and "Slide" (1998). They have been nominated for four Grammy Awards and have sold over 10 million albums.

Vanessa Carlton is a pop and rock singer-songwriter and pianist from New York City. Her first album premiered in 2002 and she has a fourth album set to be released in 2011. She is known for her hit songs such as "A Thousand Miles" (2002) and "White Houses" (2004).

The Spring Event committee has been working diligently since November to bring a successful show to campus. Led by Spring Event Chair Kaylee McDonald, the committee has four subcommittees: Box Office, led by Chair Shaun Kelly; Hospitality, led by Chair Devin Houde; Production, led by Chair Nick Massa; and Publicity, led by Chair Steve Genovese. Each of these committees is made up of a number of student volunteers who have dedicated their time to this production.

Kaylee McDonald has had a chair position on the Spring Event committee for the past three years. Her experience with this event has enabled her to have an exceptional knowledge of the procedure. "I like to think that the selection process this year was a little more thorough than past years," she told The Westerner. "Never have we polled the campus *twice* before." The committee started the selection process by compiling a list of about 100 artists that were within the school's budget. This list was sent to the entire school via e-mail, which allowed the committee to take the students' input and narrow the list down to 15 artists. This second list was put onto Manhattan so that students could once again vote. These polls were used to evaluate how much interest the student population had in each of the artists. The top three choices were then determined.

Goo Goo Dolls were among the top three picks. WNEC made and offer to the Goo Goo Dolls, who accepted, and Vanessa Carlton was later offered the opening position and she too accepted.

"It feels good [to be at this step of the Spring Event process]. It means everything can start rolling as we can now see there are many excited for the show and many willing to help out," Chair Devin Houde said. Anyone interested in helping out in the Spring Event committee can do so by speaking to any of the Chairs or responding to any of the e-mails that have been or will be sent out to students. "Volunteers who meet requirements receive free access and a free shirt," encouraged Houde.

Spring Event is not an easy event to prepare for. The committee tries to please the student body to the best of its ability, but can be very complicated. "It can be difficult at times, especially when so many different students are interested in so many different musical and comedic acts," said Chair Steven Genovese.

"The committee does the best it can to accurately represent the entire student body with the spring event choice. This is an extremely hard job with the variety of music tastes here at WNEC," agreed McDonald.

Students are also immersed in the preparations for Spring Event. According to McDonald, over 50% of WNEC students participated in the second survey.

Many students welcomed the idea of the Goo Goo Dolls and Vanessa Carlton coming to campus as a tribute to their youth. "I'm excited that the Goo Goo Dolls are coming because it is music that I grew up with and I am pumped to see the bands that I grew up with still out there entertaining people," said junior Tom LeClair. This Spring Event will represent the music many students listened to throughout their childhoods.

Correction

In the last addition of the Westerner, the spring event article had some misinformationand opinion, which has been corrected in the above article. We apologize for any inconvenience that article may have caused.

Entertainment

CAB Diversity Committee to bring in inspiring speaker

By: Hannah Berling

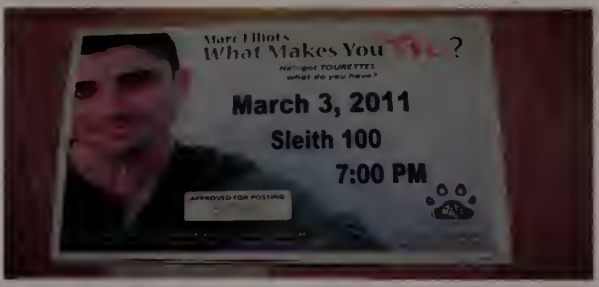

Image: Hannah Berling and Jackie Buczkowski

The Diversity and Alternative Entertainment committee of the Campus Activities Board is bringing their first of three unique programs to the Western New England College campus on Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00pm in Sleith 100.

Marc Elliot is coming to campus to speak in his presentation entitled "What makes you tic?". Elliot was diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome at age nine; this was on top of being born with a rare disease that left him with virtually no intestines. He now travels all over the country speaking not only of his hardships, but also on the values of tolerance.

Diversity and Alternative Entertainment chairperson Jackie Buczkowski is optimistic about what Elliot's presentation can provide students.

"When most people think 'diversity' the first thing that comes to mind is color, race, religion, etc. but there is much more to diversity that that. I believe Marc Elliot is an amazing person and I think he can teach all of us something," Buczkowski stated.

While he may not be a musician, or a stand-up comedian, Marc Elliot will bring a completely different kind of program to campus and will deliver a feel-good presentation.

Buczkowski has also been working with Student Disabilities Services to promote the event. This does not mean that only students who visit SDS are being welcomed at the event, as every WNEC student is being urged to attend the event and to broaden their horizons on the topics of tolerance.

There was a point where the diversity chairperson seat sat vacant, but over the last few semesters the committee has begun to flourish again. In December, Buczkowski became the new chairperson taking over for senior Jeffrey Gaudioso and she hopes to get the committee to grow in popularity more and more.

Stageless Players present A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer

By: Jackie Clarke

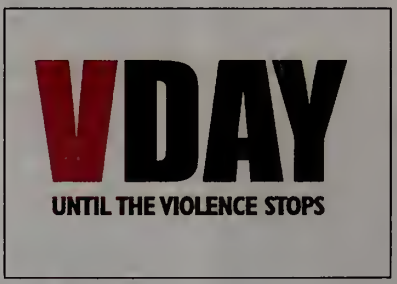

Image: vday.org

The Stageless Players performed "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer" (MMRP) as a V-Day benefit performance on Feb. 18 and 19 in Sleith 100.

Although very similar to "The Vagina Monologues" written by Eve Ensler, this show is a collection of monologues performed by men and women cast members that provide some laughs but focus more on spreading awareness to put a stop to violence happening against women and girls. According to V-day.com, "These diverse voices rise up in a collective roar to break open, expose, and examine the insidiousness of violence at all levels: brutality, neglect, a punch, even a put-down. The volume features such authors and topics as Edward Albee on S&M; Maya Angelou on women's work; Michael Cunningham on self-mutilation; Dave Eggers on a Sudanese abduction; Edwidge Danticat on a border crossing; Carol Gilligan on a daughter witnessing her mother being hit; Susan Miller on raising a son as a single mother; Sharon Olds on a bra; Patricia Bosworth on her own physically abusive relationship; Jane Fonda on reclaiming our Mojo; and many more."

"I read over a hundred pages of monologues and had to pick only ten. It was an extremely difficult decision because each monologue was so different, so unique and so powerful. I picked the ten I did because I felt that they were directed toward our WNEC community," said director and senior, Heather Perez. "I tried to pick monologues that were relatable as well as some that would educate and make people aware about things outside of our country like Jenna Pettit reading 'My mother with her hands as knives' about a Sudanese girl who escaped rape and her kidnappers and 'Untitled' read by David Gay, about a thirteen year old girl sold to a brothel in Cambodia."

Other performances during the evening included monologue readings by Angelia Kehl, "Blueberry Hill" which was about a girl in her sophomore year of college surviving a gang rape. Sammy Moniz read "Fur is Back," encouraging the college campus to realize life isn't all about the party. There are bad things going on around the world, violence against women and girls and we just act as bystanders too because we want to get drunk rather than educate ourselves and try to make a difference. Steve Genovese and Chris Milanesi also performed "Part Owner" which was about an African American woman who expressed how she felt about her sexuality and body.

"A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer: Writings To Stop Violence Against Women and Girls" is a collection of monologues by world-renowned authors and playwrights. Eve Ensler and Mollie Doyle edited the monologues, commissioned by V-Day for the first "V-Day: UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS" festival, which took place June 2006 in New York City. The writings are inspired, funny, angry, heartfelt, tragic, and beautiful. Together they create a true and profound portrait of how violence against women affects every one of us. "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, And A Prayer" is a call to the world to demand an end to violence against women. It was released as a book after famous writers and actors were asked for submissions during the Until the violence stops festival. Because of male submissions, they include men in the show and it is important to do this because even though V-day has given power to women to stop the violence against other women, everyone needs to be involved to make the violence stop.

WNEC's Stageless Players will continue to promote awareness for V-Day by performing "The Vagina Monologues," but MMRP started as the next step to end violence against women.

"I definitely think that this show was a success and I believe that it should be repeated in the coming years. Unlike "The Vagina Monologues" this show has the ability to change," said Perez. "Without my cast though, I could have accomplished nothing, I wouldn't have had such a great turn out. The 12 people who made up the MMRP are my role models for change and education, they represent the V-day organization and the need to educate and fight for a better future for women and girls all over the world. I will never be able to fully express my gratitude toward them."

90 percent of the proceeds from MMRP went to the YWCA of Springfield and 10 percent went to the V-Day organization to help stop violence against women and girls around the world. The Stageless Players will be reprising their performance of the "The Vagina Monologues" in March.

Entertainment

Dave and Ethan revamp the WNEC dating scene

By: Andrea Melone

Image: Hannah Berling

Dave Ahdoot and Ethan Fixell performed at WNEC for a Campus Activities Board event, by singing about the troubles of dating, miming the stereotypical WNEC freshman girls, and collecting audience members to participate on February 26.

Dave and Ethan, college dating coaches, instructed students how to properly date. They acted out an audience member's tale of a horrible first –and last –date, with their own comedic twist.

"Dave and Ethan were the nicest comedians I've met at WNEC," said Hannah Berling, new CAB Comedy Chair. "They really took the time to sit down with my committee and I at supper and find out what life at WNEC is like."

In addition to sitting down with the comedy committee at dinner, they wandered around the dining hall, stopping at each table to promote their event. To capture the WNEC experience, Ethan even trudged through the snow to ride the Golden Bear.

They used their knowledge of WNEC that they gained during their dinner in their skits, incorporating everything from the free WNEC t-shirts to popular hangouts and restaurants.

Ahdoot and Fixell gained their dating expertise when the posted advertisements on Craigslist and Youtube for double dates with interested girls. They received numerous responses, prompting the creation of various video response blogs, which became a Youtube comedy series about double dating. Soon, they had gone on over 200 double dates, giving them plenty of experience for teaching about dating.

The event had a strong turnout, at roughly 160 students in attendants. Extra chairs were even necessary to accommodate for the large audience.

"I was extremely ecstatic about the turnout that we got!" Berling stated. "I think that having Dave and Ethan walk around the dining hall attracted groups of students who normally wouldn't come out to this type of event. I cannot thank my committee and Dave and Ethan enough for everything they did."

WNEC senior sings out in Up with People travel experience

By: Morgan Wert

One of Western New England's own, senior Psychology major Deidra Jefferson, is doing her part to make the world a better place. This semester, Jefferson is participating in Up with People, a travel and service learning program that will take her around the world.

Jefferson has two passions: psychology and performing. A fixture in many Western New England theatrical productions, Jefferson chose to pursue her love for the stage before she begins her career in psychology.

"I have always been passionate about singing, and I also was looking for an opportunity to study abroad before I graduate," said Jefferson.

Image: Morgan Wert

She was drawn to the Up with People experience because, unlike traditional study abroad travel, she would have opportunities to see both parts of the U.S. and foreign countries while getting to know students from around the world. "There is at least one person representing each continent in the cast," she said.

Up with People, however, is not all singing and dancing. In a typical week, students from every continent work together on two days of practice, two days of community service, two days of performance, and time spent with host families. Jefferson is earning credit while away and will later blog her experiences to demonstrate various aspects of her service learning.

Joining Up with People was a natural step for Jefferson. She has held various leadership roles and clubs on campus, including Orientation Group Leader at SOAR, Stageless Players, First Year Seminar Assistant, and Academic Progress Monitor.

In high school, Jefferson learned how to balance schoolwork and her passion by attending Simsbury High School in the morning then commuting to The Greater Hartford Academy of the Performing Arts for five hours a day. After academic classes, Jefferson acted, danced, and sang her way to Western New England. Now her talent has been taking her across the world with over 80 other international students.

For the first month, Jefferson and her fellow cast members spent time in Denver, the location of Up with People's headquarters, learning staging and getting to know each other. From February to early March, Jefferson will be in Orlando and the Bahamas. The second week of March brings the cast across the pond to Europe, specifically Belgium, the Czech Republic, and the Netherlands to name a few. Deidra will also travel down to Mexico before her experience comes to a close.

Western New England College is one of only a handful of colleges in the world to partner with the Up with People organization. There are two casts per year. Cast A runs from January to June, and Cast B picks up running from July through December. Financial aid awards are applicable to the Up with People travel experience, and students like Jefferson receive the same college credit as they would if they spent a semester at a foreign institution. For details about the program visit "Up With People" at www.wnec.edu/admissions.

If you are interested in following Jefferson's example and impacting lives around the world through your service and song, contact Al Ingham, Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences and Assistant Director of the Study Abroad Program, at 413-782-1364 or email aingham@wnec.edu.

Opinion & Puzzles

Basic cooking instructions baffle nocturnal Commonwealth residents

By: Andrea Melone

Image:Hannah Berling

Perhaps the fire alarms in Commonwealth Hall are especially sensitive to smoke, or maybe the microwaves are exceptionally powerful and overcook food much more quickly, or else maybe the residents in Commonwealth just have the least amount of experience cooking on their own.

I am myself a resident of the alarm-prone building, but I can say that I have never managed to turn my easy-mac into a flaming cheesy bonfire. I always remember to put water in my bowl of ramen noodles. I always watch the popcorn to ensure it does not become charcoal black. Knowing too well the culinary expertise of my fellow Commonwealth residents, I am often wary as I climb into my top bunk because tonight may be the night that the smoke alarm blares and I once again fall out of bed in shock.

There's nothing quite as unpleasing as the earsplitting sound of a fire alarm disrupting sleep in the quiet hours of the morning, to which any Commonwealth resident can attest. It's particularly objectionable when the rain or snow pelts the victims, adding insult to injury. While I have had the misfortune of fumbling for my ladder in my confusion and missing, then falling to the floor in a bruised heap, my roommate's feet nearly froze from walking in the snow in flip-flops, not having the time or proper state of mind to find her shoes on anther occasion. Even the instances without pain and severe discomfort are detestable when they involve trudging to the AHLC while Public Safety attempts to get the smoke out of the building. I personally would prefer to sleep, but maybe that's just me.

The problem with burning food and fire alarms has gotten so bad that a program was needed to show how easy easy-mac should be prepared. It is not just me that considers these incidents ridiculous: Hall Council even put on a program titled "Cooking Correctly In Commonwealth" on Thursday, February 17. It was exactly what it sounds like: Hall Council instructed students how to properly cook ramen, popcorn, and easy-mac, and based on the full common room, there was quite a turnout. Maybe this cooking class should be mandatory.

I feel like it really shouldn't be such a challenge to read and follow such basic instructions. However, if people are going to be cooking – especially at horrendous hours of the morning, when the weather is cold and wet – they have to be attentive. If a student is going to use the microwave, he or she needs to follow all of the instructions, and stay by the microwave to make sure nothing catches fire. If something *does* happen, catch it! Put it out! Get help! Do not run away from the problem! Making popcorn should not be such a hassle.

MAGIC MAZE ● DISTILLED SPIRITS

J X U R P M J G N D A T X V S
Q N K I F W D A O X A I V T Q
O M J H F H C A B Y P V W U R
P N L J F I T I R E P A H F Y
D B Z R A S X U U V A V T D R
R Q O M U K M K O I R K N C R
H F D B Z E L Y B M G A A W E
V T R Q Z Y U I O N R N L K H
I H F C D C A Q R B G E I Z S
X W A K D O V V I O U S V G R
A L I U Q E T Q C L H O N M K

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Akvavit	Cognac	Liqueur	Vermouth
Aperitif	Gin	Mezcal	Vodka
Bourbon	Grappa	Rum	Whiskey
Brandy	Horika	Sherry	

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		7			4	8		
	8			2		9	7	
9			6					5
8					5	1		
	7			1			6	
	4	2	3					8
	5			3			2	
2					1			9
		1	4			5		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of tha numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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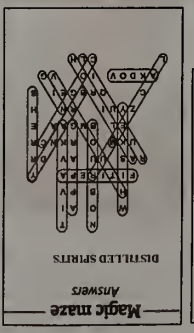
The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you. Whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining come to the next meeting or send an e-mail to thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Meeting Time: Tuesdays @ 7 PM in Rivers Room 105



Magic maze
Answers
DISTILLED SPIRITS

KFWS

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

6	2	7	9	5	4	8	1	3
4	8	5	1	2	3	9	7	6
9	1	3	6	8	7	2	4	5
5	7	9	2	1	6	3	8	4
6	3	8	7	4	5	1	9	2
2	8	6	3	9	6	2	1	7
1	4	2	3	9	6	7	5	8
3	9	1	4	6	2	5	6	7

FEATURES

Student Spotlight: Jake Cahill

By: Andrew Miceli

Image: Jake Cahill

Whether you've seen him acting in the fall and spring productions for Stageless Players, performing for Improv on the Rocks, or collaborating with the V-day Committee, it's difficult to question Jake Cahill's positive contributions to the culture of Western New England College.

Originally from Yonkers, New York, Jake moved to Sleepy Hollow, New York just prior to pursuing a degree in creative writing, as well as a minor in philosophy here at WNEC. Along with his immense passion for writing, Jake has expressed his desire to make others laugh, which to him, is nothing less than a priority. This compelling need to make others laugh, in which Jake so thrives, is the quintessential example of the dedication and authenticity that allows him to progress in Improv on the Rocks and Stageless Players.

"I'm alwoys into making people laugh. I get a personal satisfaction doing it. It's kind of selfish, but it's so important that everyone loughs. There shouldn't be a doy thot someone daesn't lough; it helps people get through eoch day," said Jake, in regards to his motivation for involvement in WNEC's theatre and improvisational troupe on campus.

Taking place in the Blake Law Center's Moot Court Room, the Stageless Players put on their fall production of "Sandbag, Stage Left," directed by Hillary Bucs, Professor of Theatre and Improv here at WNEC, which is a courtroom parody written by John Anthony. In this rendition, Jake played the comical role of Salvatore Soo, an Italian-Asian American medical examiner.

"I really tried ta play up the camedic cantradictians af playing Sol. Over the course af the production, I developed o unique occent, wolk, ond gesture to ploy up the camedic cantradictians af the perfarmance," said Jake, in response to his approach to the role of Salvatore Soo.

Currently a senior, Jake has spent the past year and a half working with other active members of The Improv Troupe in collaboration with Hillary Bucs, to make great strides in spreading the club's word. As a result, the club on campus has progressively seen larger and more interactive audiences.

"Improv is getting big. Through a lat of promotions, ouditians and increasing competitian, the atmasphere is great. The whale purpose of Improv an the Rocks is ta invalve the audience thraugh interpersonal experience. Improv on the Racks thrives aff of audience porticipatian. It's for the audience. For 'Sandbag, Stage Left,' we gat the audience invalved by selecting the jury directly fram the audience, and they vated on whether ar nat the defendant wos guilty. During the intermission, os charocters in the play, we interacted with the audience. The play was a huge hit."

This interdependence of performers and audience in which Improv on the Rocks fosters, has played a pivotal role in the success that has led the club to take part in the Annual College Comedy Beanpot Tournament, sponsored by ImprovBoston. The event will take place on February 24, 25, and 26 at ImprovBoston, and it is a first for Western New England College.

"This will be the first time WNEC will have performed off compus. ImprovBoston provides the judges ond facilitotes the competition between eoch college ond university. It's a great thing."

With graduation rapidly approaching, Jake has expressed his plans of a career in the fields he came here for. Additionally, through his vast interest and progressive involvement with the drama, theatre, and improvisational endeavors here at Western New England College, it only seems fitting that he also aspires to chase his dream of acting.

"I want to pursue my writing. I have actually become o published writer recently. I alsa wont ta become a profassional stuntman for movies and TV shaws. I thrive aff af excitement. I want ta be able ta da samething different eoch day."

Living A Sustainable Life

By: Taryn Sidney

Do you know what sorts of recycling efforts are done on campus?

Well, neither did I, until I did some research. Even though I am a part of the sustainability council, I didn't know about some of the recycling opportunities that our campus offers. First, I would like to offer a resource to you all. Go to the WNEC website and click on current students. On the left hand side of the page, click on Office Directory and scroll down until you see a link that is called Environmental and Safety Compliance. This link provides students with information and knowledge about the recycling efforts here on campus. This is a resource that you might find useful in the future!

One of the things that I learned about Western New England College's recycling efforts is their collection of used cell phones for domestic violence victims. First, I would like to applaud facilities management for their efforts to not only recycle but help out a good cause. Second, I would like to encourage you to do the same. If you have an obsolete phone that you would like to donate to national Wireless Foundation's "Call To Protect" Donate a Phone program please do! These phones are sometimes the only thing that saves their lives!

While exploring the Environmental and Safety Compliance page even further, I also discovered that the Facilities Management staff has been working to recycle other college items that even I didn't think could be recycled. The following items are recycled: fluorescent light bulbs, electronics including old telephones, pagers, typewriters, computers, as well as motor oil, tires, construction debris, rechargeable batteries, wooden shipping pallets, hazardous waste (Laboratory Chemicals), and tree brush for wood chips. That is a lot of things that are recycled that I never knew about, and when I look at the list, it dawned on me that these are some of the best things to recycle! As the college progressed, this list is looking to get bigger!

Finally, one of the last things that I found - which I found most interesting - was that the school measures the effectiveness of recycling on campus. Dating back to 2009 it shows how much recyclable material in pounds has been shipped. On the same page, it also stated that the school donated more than 35 tons of surplus furniture to the Institutional Recycling Network during the spring and summer of 2010. The IRN donates furniture to Third World Nations, victims of Natural Disaster and or other underprivileged communities! It is so interesting to see that recycling efforts are not only helping our campus become more sustainable, but also helping people all over the world.

It is outstanding to see what sort of efforts Western New England is taking to make campus more sustainable. All students really see is the blue bins in each building collecting different items. I suggest to all that you check out this website to learn more about the efforts being made. What is being done is great, even if we don't see it all the time. Maybe checking out the website will answer some of your questions, and maybe it will encourage you to help the institution further its efforts to become more sustainable!

Features & Sports

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

1. Eat local: it may be more expensive, but for a few occasions, try to support your local farmers.
2. Once it starts warming up, consider rid ing a bike, walking, or jogging to get to classes if you live in a Gateway, South wood, or Evergreen.
3. Reuse containers from take out, if possible.
4. Limit the length of your showers. Even bet ter, take a "navy shower," shutting off the water while soaping up and shampooing.

Thumbs up / Thumbs down

The Westerner is incorporating your thoughts! A new feature has been added and we want to hear from you. Thumbs up /Thumbs down gives students the opportunity to voice likes and dislikes. Send in your comments via the Westerner e-mail thewesternersn@yahoo.com. All submissions will be printed anonymously, however your name must be included with a one line comment in the email.

Thumbs up to The Town Troubadour - Dude, you rock!

Thumbs up to Sweet Justice – Three days ago I saw a boy drop a banana peel on the ground, today I saw him trip on it.

Thumbs down to Manhattan crashing.

Thumbs up to WNEC for saving students form driving through snowpocalypse

Thumbs down to WNEC for needing a snowpocalypse to finally cancel classes

Thumbs down to Astronomers – You had to go and change the horoscope signs

Thumbs up to the student who rides to class on a unicyle

Golden Bear Sports Beat February 16th- February 26th

By: Jeremy Leavens

Men's Basketball:
2/16: Anna Maria College 72.....Golden Bears 65
-Alston: 19 pts
-Shaw: 16 pts, 7 rebs

2/19: Colby-Sawyer College 88.....Golden Bears 81
- Seniors Brad Thomka, Chris Devine, Andre Duncan,
& Conor Lomas were honored before the game
- Thomka: 24 pts, 8 rebs

Men's Hockey:
2/16: Golden Bears 3.....Nichols College 2
- Krueger: G, A, 2pts
- Sorenson: 30 saves

2/19: Golden Bears 3.....Suffolk University 2 (OT)
- WNEC clinched postseason berth with win
-Senior Chris Beaudoin honored before the game
-Monahan: 2 Gs (Game-winner in OT)
-Martin: 2 As

2/26: ECAC Northeast Quarterfinal
Johnson and Wales 7..... Golden Bears 1
-Grahl: 1 G (9th of season)

Wrestling:
2/18: Providence, RI
Golden Bears 45.....U.S. Coast Guard Academy 10
- Maroni W (157 lb class)
- Mangelli W (174)
Johnson Wales University 43.....Golden Bears 7
-Medina W (141 lb class)
-Caliento W (165)

Women's Basketball:
2/16: Golden Bears 65.....Anna Maria College 19
-Van Huysen: 14 pts, 5 rebs, 3 stls
-Savino: 13 pts, 5 asts, 4 rebs, 2 stls

2/19: Colby-Sawyer College 66.....Golden Bears 49
-Seniors Loren Stock, Kelly McCormick, Taryn Belowsky,
& Trish Breault were honored before the game
- Savino: 15 pts, 7 rebs
-Proper: 10 pts, 8 rebs

2/22: University of New England 68.....Golden Bears 56
-TCCC Tournament Quarterfinals
-Radzikowski: 16 pts
-Savino: 11 pts, 5 rebs, 4 asts

Women's Swimming

2/18-2/20: New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association (NEISDA) Championship

2/18: Stood 14th out of 21 teams

2/19: Stood 15th out of 21 teams
-200 yd medley placed 14th (Caron, Fitzpatrick, Smachetti, Carrington)

2/20: Finished 14th out of 21 teams
-Petersen: 15th in 100 individual medley
-Fitzpatrick: 15th in 200 butterfly

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Underground electrical fire causes evacuation of Plymouth

By: Chantel Branco

Image: Alexandra Carter

At approximately 8 o'clock pm on Monday, March 21, the underground wires in front of the Plymouth Complex buildings, caught fire, causing electrical shortages and a billowing tower of smoke.

The first noticeable signs of the electrical problems were power surges that occurred for about half an hour. Soon after the surges started, a Plymouth resident contacted public safety. Mr. Ed White, Director of facilities, and Beth Hill, Associate director of Residence Life were also contacted.

Upon inspection of the transformer and the surrounding area, the aforementioned authority figures decided to evacuate all three Plymouth buildings. Students were directed to find alternate housing on their own for the night or proceed to the Alumni Healthful Living Center where emergency-housing arrangements had been put into effect.

Dr. Hart-Steffes, Dean of Students, spoke with the Westerner to explain the event and the process by which everyone operated to fix the problem. After removing a tree, which stood directly above the affected wires, a team of workers were able to isolate the problem and come up with a solution.

Workers from Massachusetts General Electric arrived at 7:00 am to rectify the situation. In the meantime a mandatory meeting for all Plymouth residents was called to inform students of the ongoing situation and to provide those in need with alternate housing plans. At the meeting students were told they would be allowed back in their rooms between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm, to grab clothes, books, and anything else

Continued on page 3

WNEC hosts 2011 all college Relay For Life

By: Corinne Gamache

Image: Corinne Gamache

"A one-night stand that you won't regret," that's the motto of the 2nd annual American Cancer Society's Springfield Area All College Relay For Life that was held in the AHLC on April 1, 2011.

Participants in the Relay took turns walking around the track above the main gym from 6:00om Friday evening until 8:00am Saturday morning to symbolize that cancer never sleeps. Last year's Relay was held at Holyoke Community College on April 30th, where approximately 400 people raised $10,000. This year 292 participants from 34 teams came together to raise $14,606.56 to help fight cancer.

Sam Ludwig, a sophomore biomedical engineering major, has been involved with various Relays for the past six years. Ludwig was the Relay's top individual participant after raising $815 and his team, WNEC's SHORE to Find a Cure, raised $2,320 to make it the 2nd highest donating team.

When asked about his fundraising strategy, Ludwig said that he simply sent out emails to all of his friends and family asking for contributions. Although a donation of Monster energy drinks kept Ludwig and the other participants awake last year, there were no free Monsters to be found at this year's Relay, but a donation of water and other drinks from Big Y kept everyone hydrated. Other donations included a dinner provided by Texas Roadhouse and Subway, late night pizza from Pizza Hut, and the chicken wings for the wing-eating contest were given by Wings Over Springfield.

While walking around the track was the main focus of the event, participants had plenty of other options awaiting them when they came back downstairs. Along with the wing eating contest, there was a pie eating contest, obstacle

Continued on page 3

News

Alternative Spring Break students reflect on a week of service

By: Hannah Berling

While many students indulged in fun in the sun or time with family, thirty-six Western New England College students chose to use their Spring Break to give back. They then came together on March 25th to reflect upon their experiences.

During the week of Spring Break thirty-six Western New England College students accompanied by four advisors divided into groups of ten and made the pilgrimage to four different locations. Students traveled to Virginia, Washington DC, New York City, and Alabama to participate in different types of service experiences, but they also took away memorable life lessons.

"I feel like this trip has given me insight into who I am." Kyla Lamere, a senior first time ASB participant stated.

All the groups took part in different types of service projects, but they all learned about themselves and gained appreciation for others along the way.

"Communication is so much more than the words that we say," stated Kevin Joclyn of a lesson he learned working with children and adults with disabilities on his trip to Camp Baker in Chesterfield, VA. The Virginia trip participants also did yard work at the camp, and participated in activities where they themselves took on common disabilities of the people at the camp.

Another group traveled to our nation's capital to work with hunger and homelessness issues in Washington DC. The group worked with nine different organizations throughout the city doing different tasks concerning hunger and homelessness. During their reflection the group pointed out that they learned that homelessness is much more than the common stereotype of drug abusers or alcohol addicts that people commonly associate with homelessness.

A third group traveled to New York City to work with the Gay Men's Health Crisis, and to learn more about HIV and AIDS. While lending a hand with to the organization the group said that they learned that it is not having the disease that affects the people the most, it is learning how to live a manageable life being HIV positive.

Emily Seils, a member of the New York group started off the presentation by reading a poem entitled "I have AIDS" that spoke of the challenges that clients of the Gay Men's Health Crisis face in everyday life.

The last group of students flew to Alabama to work on trail maintenance in the Talladega National Forest. This group had a different kind of experience than the other groups because they were doing indirect service, they did not see the direct effect that their work had on clients. Members of this trip were quick to point out that while they did not directly work with clients of an organization, they felt the gratification when being thanked by the married couple in charge of the trails. Being in the woods in the southern United States was also a new experience for members of this trip as it gave them a chance to see the stars and to learn how interested people were in the community.

Of the forty students and advisors who attended the trips, ten were returners to the Alternative Spring Break program and three were freshman. The people in these categories also learned new lessons while on their trips.

"I was nervous about doing the trip as a freshman." stated Hannah Faulkner, who attended the Washington DC trip. She later stated that she was happy that she took part in the experience and she, along with the rest of her group, said it was "eye-opening".

The trip was also special for returning members, as they were able to build off past ASB experiences.

"My trip last year was very powerful and still affects me; this year's trip was very different but also was very meaningful. I definitely plan on applying to go on my third trip next year," stated sophomore Andrea Melone, who attended the trip to Camp Baker in Virginia.

All participants in the Alternative Spring Break program went into the week knowing that they would be partaking in community service, but they also came out with lessons about life and about themselves that they will never forget. These experiences are what keep certain students coming back year after year and what draws in new participants.

Students protest to end silence

By: Andrea Melone

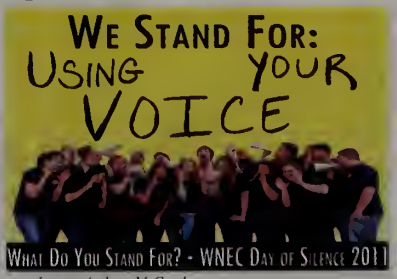

Image: Andrew McGrath

Instead of a typical loud protest, GSA will be hosting a project called Day of Silence, to protest the silence faced by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies on April 15.

This national event uniquely captures attention based on participant's lack of voice throughout the day. Even in classes, students can choose to take part in the protest, and keep their silence.

Participants will be given a card that explains their silence to show to questioners throughout the day. It explains the reason for the silence, to "echo that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination."

After a full day of sealed lips, students are free to speak in the afternoon, at the "Breaking of the Silence" ceremony takes place at 3:00pm in Senate Chambers. At this ceremony anyone who took part in the Day of Silence will be able to speak freely of their experience.

"The Day of Silence gives a voice to those who feel that they have been silenced," stated GSA president Jenna Swartz.

The biggest message of the event is: "think about the voices you are not hearing today." It is intended to catch people's attention, and in hopes that ending the silence will be the first step towards fighting the injustices. What are you going to do to end the silence?

Steve Genovese, a participant, stated "The day and especially the service where the silence is broken is very humbling and is most definitely an eye-opening experience to realize not only the amount of people in support of the event, but also the impact of it."

To find out more about the Day of Silence, look for the GSA table in the campus center during the week leading up to April 15 for sign ups. Also, go to www.dayofsilence.org for more information.

C.A.R.E. celebrates appreciation week

By: Jackie Clarke

April is National Volunteer Appreciation month and C.A.R.E. (Community Action Rewards Everyone) will be honoring the volunteers on campus who have given back to the community through their volunteer service during the week of April 10 through April 16.

During National Volunteer Appreciation Week on campus, C.A.R.E. will have a table set up in the Campus Center from noon – 2:00 p.m. where those who have volunteered in the community can sign their name on a poster in recognition of their commitment to the community.

On Thursday, April 14, there will be a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at 5 p.m. in LaRiv 300. This dinner, sponsored by C.A.R.E., will specifically honor those who have volunteered in the Springfield Community or have done other community service work in neighboring communities.

The evening will include dinner and a slide show to honor the volunteers for their support, service, and dedication towards making the community a better place.

"Volunteers plant the seeds of kindness," said a C.A.R.E. member.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 and is about inspiring, recognizing, and encouraging people to become engaged within their communities. According to handsonnetwork.org, this week is about taking action and encouraging people to be in the center of social change to foster positive transformation.

For more information about National Volunteer Week, C.A.R.E., or to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, contact C.A.R.E. secretary, Ashley Faherty at af291373@wnec.edu.

News

Class of 2013 Flag Football

By: Jeremy Leavens

On April 16, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Class of 2013 will host the 2nd-annual Flag Football Tournament on the Commonwealth Lawn. Building off the success of last year's event, there are currently nine teams signed up for competition this year.

Each team has a total of ten players, with at least two girls on each team. Team registration in the Campus Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. will continue until April 15th, so there is still time to add your team to the tournament. All members of Western New England College are welcome to make teams, including the staff.

Pat Fraser, co-chair of the tournament, enthuses "Council's put a lot of work in, and it was a great time last year. It will be just as fun if not better this year." The fun isn't only limited to the football games, however. A DJ, Frisbee art, snow cones, and possibly other treats will be also available on the lawn.

Ryan Coseo, co-chair of the tournament, states that "even if people aren't playing in the game, they are welcome to come down and enjoy other activities, and watch the game as well."

Plymouth evacuation
Cont. from front page

they might need for a worst case scenario of housing displacement that would last two days.

While students went through the process of moving to new rooms, a repair part, which had to be delivered from New York, arrived just in time to get all the maintenance work done allowing students to settle back into the Plymouth Complex residence hall before the end of the night.

"The students were awesome!" commented Dean Hart-Steffes "Everything went very smoothly." Dean Hart-Steffes also explained that there was an emergency response team that practices various emergency drills in preparation of an actual emergency. The response team was well prepared and was able to work like a well-oiled machine, doing everything necessary to protect, notify and accommodate the displaced residents.

"I was very impressed by the way residence life, public safety, and other authority figures worked together to keep everyone informed. They were so forth coming with the information and I appreciated the measures they took to accommodate each resident," commented a Plymouth resident, Alex Carter.

The Administration utilized E2Campus, Manhattan, The WNEC homepage, Facebook, and Twitter as methods to inform Plymouth residents, other students, and also parents of the ongoing ordeal. Although the circumstances that beset the Plymouth residents were stressful and frustrating, it turned out to be a best-case emergency scenario where fortunately no one was hurt and nothing was damaged.

Tom Wozniak, Assistant Dean of Students and Residence Life commented "It was a very unusual situation. I am very grateful for student participation and cooperation and I am very glad it had a happy ending."

Relay For life
Cont. from front page

course race, jousting, karaoke, inflatable twister, and a dance off. But the overall favorites were the four tricycles that were rented from Taylor Rental. These adult-sized tricycles were always in use by people racing them around the gym and were rarely ever left unattended for more than a few minutes.

Event chair Amanda Jackson of Westfield State University said that she had expected to see more people walking on the track.

"Not as many people walked but that's probably just because it's a college relay and they aren't as strict about [the walking]."

One thing that did get the students as excited as they were about the tricycles was the Jersey Shore theme of this year's Relay.

"Some people objected since it doesn't really have anything to do with cancer, but Jersey Shore was chosen as the theme because it would attract college students, the target audience," said Jackson.

Jackson had a very positive experience at her first Relay. "I like seeing college kids defying stereotypes and coming together to help fight cancer. It's nice to be part of something good, knowing that you helped to raise so much money to fight cancer."

On the left students walking the track during the Luminaria cermony and on the right two students enjoying the tricycles
Images: Corinne Gamache

Monique Zarmanian, a marketing communications advertisement major here at WNEC, also enjoyed how the colleges came together.

"I like the fact that everyone is together and having fun. There are all different kinds of groups here from different colleges and we don't really know each other but we're all brought together for this cause." Zarmanian stated.

If you didn't get to participate in this year's Relay, there is a good chance that it will be held at WNEC next year as well. Jackson explained how the committee running the Springfield Area All College Relay was trying to make WNEC the home base for the Springfield Relay For Life and work all year on planning the Relay as a collaboration between representatives from all eight colleges in the Greater Springfield area. WNEC's indoor track, large main gym, ample parking, and central location to the other colleges made it an ideal choice for the Relay's home base.

Students at this year's Relay shared with the Westerner how they were managing to stay awake for the fourteen hours. Ludwig brought his Monster drinks as well as "an open mind and a lot of free energy."

Alex Lipinsky, also a biomedical engineer, said he was "Running around a lot. It's 10:00pm and I'm still wide-awake." He was proud to say that he did not rely on energy drinks to maintain consciousness. "It's just sheer willpower. It's 2AM and I'm just as awake as I was at 10:00pm. I keep moving, I won 2nd place in the jousting tournament and my team destroyed at tug of war."

Jackson too said that she hadn't had any caffeine but that "running around getting events ready is keeping me awake, but I may take a nap during quiet hours."

After the final laps a closing ceremony allowed the students to reflect on their night. During this ceremony survivors spoke about their struggles and those who've lost family and friends recall their loved ones. The Relay For Life is not only a fun night to spend with friends, it is also a time to remember those who have been lost to cancer.

Entertainment & Features

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Stageless players pefrom "It's Good to Be an Ant"

By: Jeremy Leavens

On Saturday, April 2nd and Sunday, April 3rd the Western New England College Stageless Players group performed "It's Good to Be an Ant" at the Eric Carle Museum in Springfield. Encore performances of the play will take place on campus in Sleith on Friday, April 29th at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 30th at 11:30 a.m.

The play, written and directed by Hillary Bucs, is geared toward children in grades kindergarten through fourth grade. Following a day in the life of a Builder Ant, Scout Ant, Soldier Ant, Queen Ant, and a Wood Louse, the performance allows the kid-filled audience to interact with the plot unfolding on stage. Wanting to eat the ant eggs, the Wood Louse disguises himself as an ant, and shrewdly convinces the Builder, Scout, and Soldier ants to take the day off.

"It was such a fun experience working with such a different and interactive audience!" stated Danna Mazzola, a participant in the play.

Hillary Bucs wrote the play in 2000, and it has since been produced in Hollywood Ca. and toured Los Angeles for three years. Bucs' seven year old daughter is featured in the play amoung others including Spencer Kelly, Danna Mazzola, Kaitlyn O'Konis (accompanist), Michael Gittleman, Jenna Pettit, Elizabeth Drobnak, and A.J. Frustaci. The show was stage managed by Lisa Flores

Sophomore Maddie Boushie, who is the Market Outreach Coordinator for "It's Good to Be an Ant," shares the significance of this performance, stating the play is an "interesting opportunity for WNEC because it will be the first children's play that is being performed on-campus by WNEC students."

All WNEC students are welcome to attend and support the Stageless Players' performance. In addition, a donation of $2 is suggested at the door, as all proceeds from the play go to First Book. First Book is a non-profit organization that provides access to new books for children in need. Boushie also applauds this initiative for giving back, stating, "I think it is great that WNEC is reaching out to the Springfield community."

graduating seniors

Don't Miss Out

Everything you need to know to prepare for Commencement on May 21, 2011 is on the Commencement website at:

http://www.wnec.edu/commencement

Be sure to check it out so you don't miss an important date, time, or event. Give the website address to your family – There are things they also need to know.

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

For when it finally is warm...

1) Breathe in the freshness. Before you turn on the AC each day, decide if you can open the windows or turn on a fan instead; you can save a lot of energy and cost by doing this. Close shades during the hottest parts of the day when you're not in the room to reflect the sun and keep it cooler.

2) Need relief from the heat in your car? Use the air conditioner if you're going faster than 40 miles per hour, since a lot of engine power at high speeds goes to reducing drag. When you're cruising around town, it's more efficient to roll down your windows.

3) (I've said it before, but I'm going to say it again) No bottled water. I know that summer time is hot, but don't use bottled water if possible; instead use a reusable bottle made of steel, aluminum, or BPA free plastic. 1.5 million barrels of oil in the US alone are used to make water bottles from polyethylene terephthalate, 86% of which are landfilled or incinerated. It's also cheaper for you!

4) Skip the air fresheners. Buy fresh flowers! An open box of baking soda eliminated odors, and dried flowers also add natural fragrance to the room.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or send an e-mail to thewesterner-sn@yahoo.com

Meeting Time: Tuesdays @ 7 PM in Rivers Room 105

FEATURES

Tips to consider for a power outage

By: Alexandra Carter

Image: Alexandra Carter

Ever wonder what to do when you are stuck at school and the power unexpectedly goes out? This is the problem Plymouth residents faced two weeks ago when some broken wires caused the power to surge and eventually left them with no electricity at all. Students were left in total darkness with no heat and little supplies. Many residents found themselves without flashlights or other sources of light. Luckily, we live in a time in which we have technological advantages like cell phones, which makes information easier to access. However, the electrical problem in the Plymouth Residence Halls reminded many students that they need to be better prepared for such situations. The following are some preparation suggestions:

Have an emergency care set in your room. This should include medical supplies like bandages and antibacterial cream, cash, and a flashlight.

Periodically check your flashlight to make sure that the batteries are functioning. There is nothing helpful about having a flash light if it will not turn on.

If the power is surging, unplug all of your appliances. Surges can cause severe damages.

If you find yourself in a situation in which you don't have a flashlight, do not panic. Use your head. Think: is there anything else you can use as a source of light? Many students have book lights. Cell phones can also provide enough light to help you maneuver around a dark room. Use the resources that you have at hand.

It is also a good idea to have a few extra blankets lying around, especially in the colder months. Although long term electricity problems will lead to evacuation of the residence halls, the lack of heating during a power outage can cause a room to get cold quickly. Blankets are an efficient way to keep warm.

If the power has been out for a long period of time, use your cell phone to get information from public safety or other offices on campus. If you think the problem is going to persist, try to contact a friend about making other arrangements.

Before leaving your room, double check that you have unplugged all appliances. Also check your fridge to make sure you are not leaving food that will spoil. Foods like ice cream will melt and make a huge mess in your freezer. It is also advisable to leave the fridge and freezer open so that mold does not form.

Keep in touch with sources of information. Do not be afraid of annoying people: the residence hall is your home when you are on campus, and you have every right to ask questions to ensure that you have the most current information.

It is important to keep this information in mind. The more prepared you are for an unexpected event, the more comfortable you will be when dealing with it. However, it doesn't hurt to have some fun as well. If the power is only out for a short amount of time, use the outage as a reason to take a break from that paper you were writing. Sit around with your roommate and tell ghost stories. Play a board game or pull out a deck of cards. Use your flash light to make shadow puppets on the wall. Make a fort with your blankets and lay in it. Put your cell phone down for a few minutes and enjoy life without technology. Be prepared, but do not forget to live a little and enjoy the hurdles that come with life.

The Westerner Point of Information:

Who makes up the Springfield Area Colleges?

American International College
Bay Path College
Elms College
Holyoke Community College
Springfield College
Springfield Technical Community College
Western New England College
Westfield State College

These colleges also make up the Cooperating Colleges of Greater Springfield Consortium (CCGS). What does this mean?

- As a WNEC student if a class is not offered here you can take it at one of these other colleges and just pay your normal tuition to WNEC.
- The libraries of these eight colleges share books and resources with each other and with some of the other libraries in the Greater Springfield area.
- The event staffs also work together in planning jointly sponsored program and events at one college may be advertised at the other colleges.
- The career centers offer career fairs open to all students from these colleges.

Support your peers by tuning into GBTV on channel 8.2 and the WNEK 105.1 radio station.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Features

Student Spotlight: Stephanie Mulcahy

Images: Stephanie Mulcahy

Cadet Stephanie Mulcahy of the Western New England College Army ROTC program is not only a cadet, but she is also also the recipient of the Miss Teen Rhode Island pageant. In the WNEC Army ROTC program, she is currently the only freshman awarded a full scholarship. Cadet Mulcahy is also a member of the WNEC Cheerleading Team. On top of all of her extracurricular activities, she academically excelled, earning a 3.45 GPA in her first semester.

Westerner Beer Review

Brooklyn Lager

By Canio Carlucci and Adie Giguere
The Beer Pros

Note: All students imbibing alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNEC guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

This week we decided to try out our first lager of the year, as well as something in the spirit of the current World Series; thus we wound up with Brooklyn Lager.

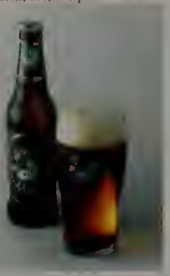
The first thing you will notice about the Brooklyn Lager is it's very dense foamy head and an unusual amount of carbonation.

The Brooklyn Lager is definitely a heavy sweet beer, but don't let that fool you because it packs a nice hop-driven punch, followed by a smooth aftertaste that doesn't let you forget it is a lager.

The Brooklyn Lager is the ideal beer to be consumed with a steak or any other heavy meal, and can definitely not be consumed in mass quantities.

Another thing to take note of is the fact that this is an excellent beer for the fall/winter season.

All in all, it is safe to say that we enjoyed the Brooklyn Lager, but it is nothing to go crazy for… If you see it, pick up a six pack, but definitely don't go looking. We have decided to give the Brooklyn Lager 3/5 beers primarily because it is so heavy for a lager.



Brooklyn Lager Rating

3/5 Beers

— Weekly Sudoku —

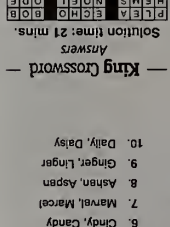
Answer

9	1	3	2	4	7	5	8	6
5	7	2	3	8	6	4	1	9
8	6	4	1	9	5	3	2	7
3	5	6	9	2	8	7	4	1
4	9	8	6	7	1	2	5	3
7	2	1	5	3	4	6	9	8
6	4	7	8	5	9	1	3	2
1	3	9	4	6	2	8	7	5
2	8	5	7	1	3	9	6	4

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.



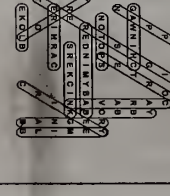
Even Exchange

answers

1. Junker, Junket
2. Rubble, Rumble
3. Bikini, Biking
4. Media, Medic
5. Bons, Doris
6. Cindy, Candy
7. Marvel, Marcel
8. Ashen, Aspen
9. Ginger, Linger
10. Daily, Daisy

Magic maze

Answers



CryptoQuip

answer

If a tombstone is about to fall over and hit you, you might say you're in grave danger.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Energy; 2. Minute; 3. Phony

Today's Word:

DINNER

Sports quiz
Answers

1. Brian Hunter (74) and Tony Womack (60) combined for 134 in 1997.
2. The Los Angeles Dodgers' Ramon Martinez, in 1995.
3. It was after the 1957 season.
4. The Knicks, Grizzlies, Clippers, Timberwolves and Heat.
5. Six — Martin Brodeur, Henrik Lundqvist, Miikka Kiprusoff, Jonathan Quick, Craig Anderson and Evgeni Nabokov.
6. Jimmie Johnson, in 2009.
7. Wimbledon was not among her seven Grand Slam titles.

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PUZZLES

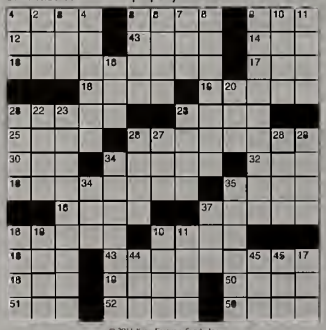
King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Entreaty
5 Reverberate
9 Hope or Newhart
12 Skirt edges
13 Christmas refrain
14 Rhyming tribute
15 Instrument panel
17 Intention
18 Group of actors
19 Greene of "Bonanza"
21 City-related
24 "Leave It to Beaver" dad
25 Any moment now
26 Square dances
30 Greek vowel
31 Journal
32 "That feels so good"
33 Rump
35 Hodgepodge
36 Uses a shovel
37 Bracelet location, maybe
38 Throng
40 Timbuktu's country
42 Blood-group letters
43 Go downhill, in a way
48 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
49 Albacore
50 Pleasant
51 P.E. venue
52 Remain
53 Cabbage salad

DOWN

1 Third degree?
2 Meadow
3 Type squares
4 Garbage receptacle
5 Eve's grandson
6 Layer of paint
7 That girl
8 Wife or mother, slangily
9 "Monopoly" property
10 Valhalla VIP
11 Everly Brothers' "Let It -"
16 Prohibit
20 Acapulco gold
21 Secondhand
22 Memory method
23 Staff meeting site
24 Existed
26 Hastens
27 Rowing need
28 Hammer's target
29 Oxford, e.g.
31 Literary condensations
34 Disencumber
35 Toppers for Whoppers
37 Priestly garment
38 Suspend
39 Do as you're told
40 "- Lisa"
41 Vacationing
44 Wacko
45 Have a bug
46 Nipper's co.
47 Morning moisture



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MAGIC MAZE

Y A X U R Y O L J H G L D A X
V S P N P K I F I C O C A X V
S Q O P L J H G E R C A Y A X
V G A W N I H C T T R R B P N
L N J H F S D E B Y X A B V T
R P N O T O P S O M K V O R Y
Y I G R E D N I M Y B A B E E
E R E D B S R E K C I N K G M
Z E R I H R A C X W U I T N I
T R Q O O N S P S I R C L A L
J E K O L B I G F C D C A B B

BRIT SPEAK

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Baby minder
Banger
Blimey
Bloke
Bobby
Car hire
Caravan
Chin-wag
Crikey
High street
Knickers
Lorry
Nappy
Petrol
Spot on

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2			7					4
		9		9		9		
	4				9		3	
7			5				9	
		9			1	2		
	5			2				1
	6		1					7
5					6	4		
		3		4			8	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Wreck of a car	_ _ _ _ _ R	Excursion	_ _ _ _ _ T
2. Flintstone's buddy	_ _ B _ _ _	Distant thunder	_ _ M _ _ _
3. Beachwear	_ _ _ _ _ I	Using a 2-wheeler	_ _ _ _ _ G
4. Magazines or TV	_ _ _ _ A	Intern	_ _ _ _ C
5. Actor Karloff	B _ _ _ _	Actress Day	D _ _ _ _
6. Model Crawford	_ I _ _ _	Licorice or bonbon	_ A _ _ _
7. Awesome sight	_ _ _ V _ _	Mime Marceau	_ _ _ C _ _
8. Pale	_ _ H _ _	Colorado ski town	_ _ P _ _
9. Dancer Rogers	G _ _ _ _ _	Stay behind	L _ _ _ _ _
10. Once every 24 hrs.	_ _ _ L _	Donald Duck's love	_ _ _ S _

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Vigor
GREENY

Little
TIENUM

Lessen
LUDITE

Fake
NOPHY

TODAY'S WORD

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"Swell lunch—what's for _ _ _ _ _ _ _?"

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: V equals N

WT U JRDMIJRVO WI UMROJ JRTU AA RSQC UVK PWJ HRO, HRO DWFPJ IUH HRO'CQ WV FCUSO KUVFOC.

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Sports

WNEC lacrosse teams travel for spring break

By: Pat O'Rourke

Spring break is a time during the second semester that allows students and faculty alike to take some time away from the stressful grind of college life to relax and have fun. The WNEC lacrosse teams, did just that. .

Over the last 10 years, the WNEC lacrosse teams have taken team trips to another part of the country, allowing the teams to take part in games against tougher competition outside New England, get in some good practices, and get to know each other.

"It's a week that [the lacrosse team] can just focus on being lacrosse players, allowing them to be around each other," said WNEC men's lacrosse coach John Klepacki. "It also allows us to get in some good double sessions in May-weather, which is the type of weather we would play in during the postseason."

"It is a week where it is strictly about the team, and there are more practices and more double sessions, which allow the players to develop a good chemistry and learn to play with each other," said women's coach Aimee Klepacki.

For the women's team, it was a different experience this year, with it being the first time the team traveled to California, after going to Florida every other year. Klepacki said it made their trip special, considering that most of the team had never been to Southern California before, which made for great sightseeing when away from the game.

As for the games, the team split the two games played, defeating Occidental College 19-9, and losing to University of Redlands, 13-10.

The men's team traveled to Florida, taking advantage of playing a ranked opponent in a neutral site. The Golden Bears lost to Nazareth in their first game 17-5, but came back in the second game and won 12-9.

As for the rest of the season, both the men's and women's teams have some exciting matchups coming up. On the men's side, they have four games remaining at Golden Bears Stadium, as they host tough out-of-conference opponents in Springfield College and Cortland St. University. They also face Roger Williams in their Play for a Cause Game, and will face Endicott in their final home game of the season, as they honor the graduating senior members of the team.

The women's team will have four exciting TCCC battles at home, as they face Anna Maria, NEC, Roger Williams, and Endicott.

Downes hall of fame member dies at age 93

By: Pat O'Rourke

Phil Sweeney, longtime WNEC tennis coach and principal in the Springfield School system as well as a 2003 inductee into the Downes Hall of Fame, died at the age of 93 on March 19, 2011.

He is remembered on the WNEC campus as a really great human being, who had a passion for the kids, and as a result was a popular coach. He was also known in his later years as a regular in the WNEC wellness center, using the facilities to stay in shape.

"He was one of the first people I met, and we quickly made a close relationship," said WNEC athletic director Mike Theulen, who met Sweeney in 1998 when he arrived at WNEC.

Sweeney was always known as a young-thinking person as well as, not allowing his age to overtake his quality of life.

"Something Phil would always say to me was "when I grow up I want to be like you," said Theulen, who was nearly half the age of Sweeney.

Sweeney will be forever known for his commitment to WNEC athletics and educating young adults, as well as his young, energetic attitude that he carried along with him until the day he died. He will certainly be missed.

Theulen added, "Coach Sweeney was somebody whose job was only part-time, but his commitment to the students was certainly full-time."

1. Jacoby Ellsbury and Michael Bourn, the A.L. and N.L. leaders in stolen bases in 2009, respectively, combined for 131 stolen bases. When was the last time before 2009 that the two stolen-base leaders topped 131?
2. In 2009, Philadelphia's Roy Halladay became the second pitcher to no-hit the Florida Marlins in their history. Who was the first to do it?
3. When was the last time before the 2009 season that Ohio State and Oregon met in the Rose Bowl?
4. In the summer of 2009, Quentin Richardson was traded four times. Name three of the five NBA teams involved in the deals.
5. How many goaltenders played at least 70 games in the 2009-10 NHL season?
6. Who was the first NASCAR driver to be named Athlete of the Year by The Associated Press?
7. Name the only Grand Slam event tennis player Justine Henin did not win during her career?

Golden Bear Sports Beat 3/27 - 4/2

By: Jeremy Leavens

Baseball:

3/27: Golden Bears 13.....Nichols College 1 (Game 1)
- W Cloft (2-0) L LeBarron (1-1)
- Leclerc: 3-3, 2 RBI; Anthonis: 2-5, 2 RBI

Golden Bears 13.....Nichols College 8 (Game 2)
- W Michaud (2-0) L Rafferty (0-3)
- McKelvey: 3-4, 5 RBI; Rubino: 4-5, 2 RBI

3/29: Golden Bears 12.....Anna Maria College 0 (Game 1)
- W DiTomasso (2-0) L McNamara (2-2)
- Taylor: 3-4, HR, 5 RBI; Rubino: 3-4, 2 RBI

Golden Bears 9.....Anna Maria College 0 (Game 2)
- W Richardson (1-1) L Rafferty (0-3)
- Dadio: 3-3, 3 R, RBI; Leclerc: 2-4, 3 RBI

3/30: Golden Bears 5.....Endicott College 2 (Game 1)
- W Rogers (3-1) L Pittsley (1-2) S Lawlor (2)
- Trubia: HR, RBI; Leclerc: 2-3, RBI, R

Endicott College 3.....Golden Bears 2 (Game 2)
- W Dupras (1-2) L Jefferis (2-3) S Petrides (2)
- Trubia, Rubio: 1-3, RBI each

3/31: Keene State College 8.....Golden Bears 4
- W Lacourse (1-1) L Cloft (2-1)
- Anthonis: 1-5, 2 RBI; Taylor 1-4, RBI

4/2: Golden Bears 8.....Colby-Sawyer College 3 (Game 1)
- W Michaud (3-0) L Keith (1-3)
- Dudzinski: 3-3, 3 RBI; Trubia: 2-3, RBI, 2 R

Golden Bears 8.....Colby-Sawyer College 0
- W DiTomasso (3-0) L Bertuccio (1-1)
- Fatse: 2-2, 3 RBI, 2 R; Dudzkinski: 2-3, RBI, 2 R

Softball:

3/30: Golden Bears 7.....Smith College 3
- W Obin (2-2) L Clark
- Madaio: 3-4, 2 RBI; Lempicki: 1-3, 2 RBI

3/31: University of New England 3...Golden Bears 2 (Game 1)
- W Lyons (5-2) L Lempicki (2-3)
- Wyrwa: 1-4, HR, 2 RBI; Breault: 2-4, R

University of New England 7...Golden Bears 4 (Game 2)
- W Zablowsky (6-2) L Fecteau (0-2)
- Wywra: 1-3, 2 RBI; Francese: 2-3, RBI, R

4/2: Golden Bears 8.....New England College 0
- W Lempicki (3-3) L Timms (2-3)
- Lempicki: 1-3, 2 RBI; Francese, 1-2, HR, RBI, 2 R; Longo, 3-3, R

Golden Bears 9.....New England College 4
- W Riemann (2-4) L Forshaw (0-2)
- Breault: 4-4, HR, RBI; Wywra: 2-3, HR, 2 RBI

Men's Lacrosse:

3/28: Tufts University 14.....Golden Bears 13
- White: 3 Goals; Santare: 2 Goals
- Knowlton: 15 Saves
- Tufts: Top-ranked; DIII defending champions

3/30: Golden Bears 15.....Salve Regina University 9
- Harreys, Mariani: 3 Goals, Assist each
- Knowlton: 10 Saves

Women's Lacrosse:

3/29: Golden Bears 18.....Salve Regina University 10
- Daniels: 8 Goals
- Toomy, Barbalo: 3 Goals each

3/31: Golden Bears 18.....Smith College 3
- Daniels: 7 Goals, Assist; Toomy 3 Goals
- Bonitatibus: 7 Saves

4/2: Golden Bears 18.....Anna Maria College 1
- Daniels, Barbato: 4 Goals, 2 Assists each
- Trebbe: 3 Goals, 3 Assists

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

WNEC students walk to raise awareness

By: Hannah Berling

Image: Hannah Berling

Roughly 60 WNEC students, men and women alike, adorned high heeled shoes on Sunday, April 17 to take a mile long Walk a Mile in Her Shoes to benefit the YWCA of Greater Springfield.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is a national organization that is in its tenth year of rallying men together to walk a mile in women's high heeled shoes to raise awareness about sexualized violence. This is the second year that this event has taken place on campus thanks to the 1 in 4 Club, who gathered about 60 students for this year's walk.

Bryan Dickinson, president of 1 in 4 (a campus organization bringing awareness to rape and sexual assault) said that the event was brought to campus as part of its national campaign to raise awareness on sexual assault, a topic he says is not talked about enough.

"We have about 60 people walking this year. It is cool how much support there has been for the event," Dickinson stated.

Students gathered on Commonwealth lawn to walk a mile in high heeled shoes. Men were able to rent bright red pumps from the 1 in 4 Club for $5 and

Continued on page 2

Earth Day celebration 2011

By: Andrea Melone

Image: Alexandra Carter

In order to celebrate Earth Day, the Global Sustainability Club hosted a festival on April 2. The club made the event known with the typical flyers, posters, and painting the rock, as well as made special efforts to grab students' attention and interest.

For those who were looking to help the environment in a small step, Global Sustainability held a community service trip on April 16. The students broke up into groups. One group went to Forest Park in Springfield to volunteer at the zoo, help rake leaves, and did trail maintenance and cleaned up litter in the park itself. The other group leaving the campus area traveled to a local state park to do trail maintenance. Also, two groups stayed on campus or went right off campus to clean up litter on the cross-country trail behind Southwood and cleaned up litter at Breckwood Pond behind Gateway.

Next, on April 18, the club played a film called "Fuel." This documentary talked about the world's oil addiction and the changes that can be made to save the planet. The film's tagline is "Change our fuel, change our world." This was also a promotion for Earth Week and the Earth Day Festival.

In an effort to maintain the earth-friendly message, the poster for the festival and the sign on Deliso lawn for the film were made to be sustainable. The sign was made of an old piece of a cardboard box and two sticks found outside to stick it in the ground; the poster was made from a previously used RA's bulletin board, and the the letters were cut out of recycled newspaper.

"Earth Day Festival is a great new tradition started last year," stated this year's president, Lisa Covert. "Our hope is that it will increase awareness and involvement of students throughout campus in sustainability-based issues both globally and locally."

Held on Commonwealth lawn from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Earth Day Festival will include games, live music, food, information, make-your-own-hemp jewelry, and most exciting, a real rock wall. The food was popular last year, with various vegetarian platters and the menu will be similar this year. Students should bring canned goods for food vouchers and to climb the rock wall.

"Last year was a huge success and we have even more planned this year," this year's secretary, Andrew McGrath stated. "With a rock climbing wall, live music, and free food, it's a perfect way to celebrate the warm weather all while helping out the environment and learning about what we can do to make it better."

News & Entertainment

Spring Week preparations

By: Hannah Berling

The snow has melted, flowers are blooming, April is showering, and the CAB Traditions Committee is gearing up for this year's Spring Week on April 26-30.

Spring Week is one of the two themed weeks that is put on by the Traditions Committee of the Campus Activities Board every year, including Freak Week. This year, Spring Week will explore different activities from around the globe.

The committee has been working since the end of last semester, when a theme was first decided, to make this week come together. The week will also act as the first set of events for new freshman Traditions chairperson, Missy Sugrue.

"The planning process was crazy, but because of the tradition committee's efforts, the week should run very smoothly," Sugrue stated.

Plans for the week include crafts during lunch hours Tuesday through Friday that correspond with traditional activities done in different parts of the world. The CAB Films Committee will also be involved in the week on Friday, April 29, as they will show the film "Green Hornet," on Commonwealth Lawn, followed by "The Fighter," in the Rock right afterward.. On Saturday, April 30, the Diversity and Alternative Entertainment Committee will be bringing in rapper Billie D. Williams to close out the week.

"We have a lot of great activities planned such as mechanical bull riding and henna tattoos. I hope to see everyone there," Sugrue added when asked about the week's activities.

While the process has been long and the plans hit some bumps in the road along the way, the Traditions Committee is confident that Spring Week will be fun and provide activities for everyone. Each activity will be accompanied by a description of how it relates to a certain culture throughout the world, providing the crafts with an educational aspect.

As the grass gets greener and the weather gets warmer, this theme week will provide students with the opportunity to experience the world without even leaving campus this spring.

Alumni return for Improv show

By: Andrea Melone

As usual, WNEC's Improv troupe drew a crowd of laughter from their comedic stunts on April 8. Their night's performance of improvisational acting was enhanced, as they were joined by two alumni troupe members, Anne Marie Sharkey and Patricia Rau, both of whom graduated in 2009.

For those who do not know about the Improv troupe, they are a group of students with the ability to come up with clever and humorous stunts and jokes on the spot. They are prompted by audience suggestions and without having time to plan, they act out skits based on the subject at hand. It is quite similar to the television program, "Who's Line Is It Anyway?"

The show featured various traditional skits, such as "Scenes from a Hat" in which the audience submits topics for the troupe to come up with acts for. Another skit they performed was "Quotes," in which suggested random quotes must be incorporated into the skit, respectively. New games were introduced as well, including troupe mememberJay Maiellano's game called "Intervention," where the group had to hold an intervention based on an audience member's suggested addiction or problem.

The skits even amused the actors, who sometimes had trouble keeping straight faces and appeared very close to laughing themselves. An introduced water bottle, for instance, was almost too much for the actors, when poured in each other's faces.

The alumni were excited to be back and on the WNEC campus again. "It's really weird," Rau admitted, noting changes to the school since she had been a student, such as the new Science and Pharmacy building. "It's different, but it's nice," she said.

On a sadder note, it was the last performance for senior students Jake Cahil and Michael Gittleman. "I'm going to miss this so much," Cahil stated mournfully. "If I had an extra $42,000 to pay for school, I'd fail out to stay." Both he and Gittleman said frankly that the Improv troupe was their favorite part of school in their four years.

To honor their graduation, they both performed the second to last game, called "Should Have Said," in which they were forced to re-think some of their lines. Chris Milanesi, another member of the Improv troupe, would call out "should have said," and they would change their previous statements.

To follow the latest tradition, the final game played was "Late for Work." The game involves a troupe member walking off as to not hear the conversation about why he was late to work and how he then got to work (he doesn't known). He would then return and while attempting to explain to his "boss" his reason for tardiness, other "workers" would silently act out why and how he was late behind the boss's back. If they weren't careful, they could be fired and quickly replaced by other troupe members. For this event, two groups were formed, and then separately performed as a competition to see who could best and most quickly make the late worker understand his own lateness.

This was the last show for this semester, but the troupe will gladly return again to perform their humorous skits next semester.

Walk a mile in her shoes cont. from front page

Images: Hannah Berling

girls brought their own heels to the event. The club also sold T-shirts in support of the cause to raise awareness of the event.

All proceeds from the event are being donated to the YWCA of Greater Springfield, an organization that provides support for battered women and takes in women and children in need to a place to go.

When asked about the cause, sophomore Stephen Rizzon stated, "It was definitely worth it, but I'm not wearing heels again any time soon."

This is the second year that the event has been a success on campus and the 1 in 4 Club looks forward to bringing the tradition back for years to come.

For more information about the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes organization, visit www.walkamileinhershoes.org.

FEATURES

Community Corner: Professor Seymour

By: M. Ellis

Have you heard of the proverb, "Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime" by an unknown author. If you have, then you are one of the lucky ones. I had this proverb in my mind when I approached my professor of Statistics to see if she would have a chat with me and be interviewed. From the first class, I knew Professor Seymour was going to be fun and that it was going to be impossible for me to fall asleep in her class because she had a sense of humor.

Professor Seymour has been teaching Statistics and Pre-Calculus at Western New England College for almost a year. However, before that, she was teaching at a local high school for over 30 years and has retired.

Ellis: **What interested you in teaching at WNEC?**

Seymour: I was advised by my daughter to apply for a job opening at WNEC. So I did and here I am.

Ellis: **What do you love about teaching?**

Seymour: I love seeing kids, well, I shouldn't call them kids, but I love seeing students get excited about math, especially precalculus. I love knowing when they get the feeling of "Yes, I can do this." It makes me feel good and that I did my job.

Ellis: **What do you love about WNEC?**

Seymour: I love the people, the campus, the Healthful Living Center, the students, and faculty here.

Ellis: **What do you do outside of the classroom for fun?**

Seymour: That's a good question. I guess, I am a Friend of the Library, but I don't have the tote, yet. My grand-dog Oscur takes me for walks and he is my personal trainer. He is my daughter's dog. She and her husband both work and I puppy-sit him the 3 days that I am not working at WNEC. He gets me out and keeps me active and in shape. I also like hiking.

Ellis: **What advice would you give seniors as they prepare to graduate?**

Seymour: Find something that you love because you are probably going to be doing it for the rest of your life.

Ellis: **If you could be anything in the world, what would you be?**

Seymour: I would be an eagle because of their presence. They soar and fly so high.

Ellis: **What was the best advice you were given?**

Seymour: I was told to teach and to become a math teacher.

Ellis: Professor Seymour, thank you for this interview. You make statistics fun and you lighten up the lectures with jokes.

Living a sustainable life

By: Taryn Sidney

With all the environmental issues around the globe, our campus seems to be taking some efforts to go green. Although to some it may not seem like it would make a difference to the world, it does. Every which way you turn, there are different things being done to turn our campus into an environmentally friendly place.

A great example of our campus heading in the green direction would be the Student Senate Elections. This semester, Student Senate took the initiative to put the election process online which was a good decision for multiple reasons. Since Student Senate is one of the largest organizations on campus, they are trying to set an example for the other organizations on campus by going green, which is great. Also by going green, Student Senate was able to save trees and not have so many ballots that were left unused. Student Senate definitely deserves credit for making the efforts to go green.

Another way that our campus has been progressing with sustainability is paperwork related. With all the different applications that go out to the student body, various offices have been working hard at making them available and due online. In the Residence Life department, they are turning in almost all of their paperwork online instead of printing it off and giving it to supervisors.

Although you might not recognize it, our campus is trying to go green. As an institution, we are trying not only to make things more convenient for all, but we also want to save the world one step at a time. If you want to make the campus more sustainable, start small. You can do anything from donating old electronics to using less paper towels when washing your hands. Every little act of sustainability helps!

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

Happy Earth Week! If you haven't been keeping up with your green tips, now is a fantastic time to start! Keep in mind that even small steps can help better the planet. Think global, act local.

1) So you don't have the time or the patience to clean up garbage with a crew, that's okay. Try to remind yourself to pick up that wrapper on the grass, if not for the planet, then for the animals that might attempt to eat the scrap of garbage.

2) So you don't have time to go and plant a tree, that's okay. Try and plant a few seeds in a nice pot, then you can give it as a thoughtful gift to your mom for mother's day.

3) So you cant afford to purchase a new energy efficient car, that's okay. Try carpooling, taking a bus, a train, walking, or biking if it's a nice day.

4) So you can't be a strict vegetarian or vegan, that's okay. Try to cut meats out of your diet a little, such as limiting the amount of red meat you eat in a day.

5) So you can't be a tree-hugger, that's okay. Keep the relationship platonic. ☺

Reminder

The stage performance, "It's Good to Be an Ant" will be held in Sleith 100 on Friday, April 29 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 30 at 11:30 a.m.

An art activity will proceed the show for those who go early.

Correction

In the last edition of the Westerner, the article concerning the Plymouth evacuation mistakenly called Ed White the Director of Facilities. Ed White is the Master Electrician here on campus. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

FEATURES

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The Dish: Confetti Mac and Cheese

By: Corinne Gamache

These specific ingredient amounts makes a lot of Mac and Cheese, mostly because I want it for leftovers. It tastes great in the microwave and stays fresh for a long time. Obviously, if you aren't planning on sharing or having leftovers, you'll have to cut the recipe in half or smaller. An easy way to keep this from getting boring is simply throwing some tomato sauce on it before throwing it in the microwave. It's also really good cold too.

1lb. of ham
Pinch of salt
(1) 8oz package of shredded cheese
(1) Onion
(1) Red pepper
(1) Green pepper
(2) Packages of rotini noodles

1. Fill a large pot 2/3 full of water and set it on the stove to boil.
2. Throw a pinch of salt into the water.
3. While the water is heating up, cut up the ham, onion, and peppers into bite-size pieces.
4. When the water is boiling, pour in both boxes of noodles and stir occasionally to keep them from sticking to the bottom.
5. There are many different ways to check when a noodle is fully cooked. One of the most fun is to throw it against the wall or fridge, if it sticks, it's done. A better method though is a simple taste test (let the noodle cool first, it WILL be hot.) This allows you to choose how chewy you want your noodles to be.
6. When your noodles are fully cooked, dump out the water and noodles in a strainer/sieve/colander to get out all the water then dump the noodles back into the pot.
7. Mix the onions, ham, and peppers in with the noodles. When these are well mixed, add the cheese and mix again.
8. Serve!

Westerner Beer Review

Harpoon: Celtic Red Ale

By: Andrew Miceli

For our final issue of the school year, I decided to try an Irish-style Red Ale. Given that St. Patrick's Day was just less than a month ago, I figured that Harpoon's Spring Seasonal was still a solid and relevant choice.

Priced at $8.99 for a six-pack, I had pretty high expectations for Harpoon's festive IRA. After opening up the first bottle, I noticed that its distinct, reddish-amber hue produced a bit of a light, cream colored foam.

Taking on a crisp, yet balanced level of carbonation, the Celtic Ale is quintessential of Harpoon. Along with its moderate carbonation, this beer holds an intricate mixture of flavor through its malt-heavy taste, combined with a slight hint of hops that add to its finish. This beer is very drinkable and would pair nicely with a hearty meal of meat and potatoes.

Although it packs a smooth, crisp, and complex taste all at once, Harpoon hasn't made this beer as robust as it could be, which is commonly the opposite of what one would expect when buying an Irish-style Red Ale. Besides this, however, I have found no other reason to not pick up a six-pack of Harpoon's Celtic Red Ale every now and then when it's available.

Despite being a bit too refined for an Irish Ale and rather highly priced for a six-pack, I gave Harpoon's Celtic Red Ale 3.5/5 beers. Through its smooth taste, moderate flavor, and drinkability, this beer is easy to enjoy and maintains a sweet, distinct flavor among other red ales.

Note: All students imbibing alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNEC guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

3.5/5 Beers

Opinion

Spring Event review

By: Corinne Gamache

Image: Corinne Gamache

At 10:30 p.m. on April 9, Western New England College was singing and swaying together to the mega-hit "Iris." I was lucky enough to get in line early to snag a second-row spot in what quickly became a packed house. From where I was, everyone was singing from girls, guys, the guys on security detail, the women literally as old as my parents, and the rest of us were all singing along with John Rzeznik, lead singer of the Goo Goo Dolls. Even at 45, Rzeznik was putting on a show that musicians half his age can only dream about. Although there was initially some trepidation about the choice of performers for this year's Spring Event, the four-time Grammy-nominated band the Goo Goo Dolls and the two-time Grammy nominated Vanessa Carlton rocked out and defied expectations at this sold-out concert.

The line outside the AHLC started forming around 6:30 p.m. with a booth from WNEK radio set up on the side to keep the crowd entertained. The doors opened a little after 7:30, but the sun was still out and the weather was beautiful so the wait wasn't bad. We had our hands stamped and got patted down by security in a futile search for cameras. Why not allow cameras, especially since most cell phones and iPods take pictures and video just as well as a camera could. We spent the next forty minutes meeting the people around us whose personal bubbles we would be invading during the show. While it was mostly students in the audience, there was a noticeable amount of older women and men in attendance. Surprisingly, they were just as loud and just as excited as the students. Other than one incident where two people were removed by security during the Goo Goo Dolls performance of "Here is Gone" and some normal pushing and shoving, the crowd was reasonable.

At approximately 8:10

Continued on page 6

Community conduct and courtesy

By: Jackie Clarke

Everyone wants to be treated with respect and courtesy and many believe in the phrase, "Do onto others as would like done to you." But does everyone really live by that? When students come to college, it becomes their home away from home. They sleep, eat, shower, socialize, and go to class all in one place. The people living on their floor become their new family with whom they share all these aspects of living together. However, the lack of respect and common courtesy is not being displayed on our campus, specifically in the residence halls. I am an RA in Commonwealth Hall and have seen so much disrespect and damage done to the individual floors and the building itself, as well as heard about and witnessed incidents happening in other residence halls in my past few years of being an RA.

The issue I am specifically calling out are the ones I have recently witnessed in Commonwealth Hall in the past few weeks. On the fourth floor of Commonwealth on April Fools' Day, someone in the residence hall decided it would be funny to take all of the toilet paper and paper towels out of the dispensers, soak them in the shower, sink, or toilet with water and either leave them in there or take the soaked towels and toilet paper and throw them down the hallway. It left the entire fourth and some of the third floor, from what I understand, without toilet paper for the entire weekend because the housekeeping staff only restocks Mondays through Fridays.

Other things I have seen happen in this building include RA bulletin boards and door tags getting ripped down, the elevator being damaged and destroyed with trash and the ceiling tiles being popped out, building signs being ripped off and the hallways and bathrooms being left trashed or absolutely dirty.

Besides being disgusted and dumbfounded as to why residents feel the need to destroy their living environment, I wonder if they would behave like this or do these things in their houses back home? I know I wouldn't. I treat my WNEC home like I do my home and family environment in Connecticut. I don't think this is appropriate for young adults between 18 – 22 years of age to be behaving like this at the college level. People should be beyond that type of behavior. We all pay to live in the residence hall that we live in and if the people responsible were to pull this type of behavior at home, I don't think it would be tolerated, nor do I think it would even happen because there would be repercussions for it. Residence halls are your homes when you are in college and if you wouldn't be behaving like this in your own homes, what gives you the right to behave like that here? Treat your residence halls like your home. There is no reason why people should be dirtying up the hallways like what happened in this incident.

Even just in general, there shouldn't be piles of garbage around the trash can and not in it, boxes and empty food cartons laying around the halls, the kitchen being left a mess, the sink being clogged, toilets not being flushed, pee all over the toilet seats, not cleaning up after a mess, bulletin boards getting ripped down, the elevator being damaged and vandalized, putting common room furniture in the elevator, and writing defaming words on people's white boards. The list could go on forever. My point is that there is no excuse for this behavior. We are all adults and shouldn't be behaving like this because it is immature and inappropriate. I am speaking up about this because I feel as though these types of things are happening all the time and aren't being dealt with, one, because people don't know who did it so they feel they can't do anything, and two, because whether or not the perpetrator is known, residents think it will just continue happening again because there has been no punishment for these actions in the past. This issue is happening constantly not only in my building, but in other residence halls and buildings on this campus. The lack of common courtesy, respect, and conduct baffles me because at this stage in our lives, this type of behavior shouldn't be happening. If someone were to do this in the workplace, they would be fired, and that type of behavior wouldn't be tolerated. I don't think the people responsible realize that they are going to have to pay for the damages at the end of the year anyway, depending on the damage done.

I can't speak for anyone else, but I feel that I am not the only one bothered by this type of behavior. A resident of Commonwealth was also irritated at what happened on the fourth floor on April Fools' Day and said, "We all pay to live here. Just because you don't personally purchase the items for the bathroom doesn't make them disposable. Would you pull something like this at home? Probably not. Treat this like your home, with respect. There are others of us that live here." This article is not meant to complain, rather, it's meant to make a point. The point is that this type of behavior is unacceptable and your residence hall and the rest of the campus should be treated as your home. If you wouldn't do this at home, then that's a good indicator that you probably shouldn't be doing it here either. Be responsible for your actions and just treat the community with the respect, common courtesy, and dignity it deserves. The WNEC community provides not only just the academic and social aspect, but creates a home away from home for its resident students. In the end, it's all about respect, community conduct, and courtesy.

Opinion & Puzzles

Spring Event cont. from page 5

p.m., Vanessa Carlton took the stage with only a piano and a guitarist. While this was certainly a brave choice, an acoustic show wasn't suited for a college concert and Carlton's beautiful performance was marred by the constant chatter of the crowd. Carlton's set list ranged across her entire career including a few from her new album "Rabbits on the Run," which will be released on June 21. She introduced each of her songs with a little background on the song's origins, which provided more meaning and insight into her poetic lyrics. The highlight was

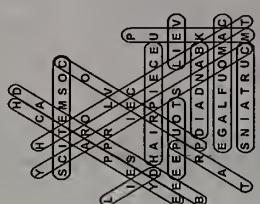
Image: Corinne Gamache

when she played her hit "A Thousand Miles" early into the performance at an audience member's suggestion, with Carlton joking that she wasn't sure if she remembered the song.

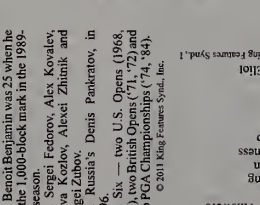
The transition between the two groups was a bit rocky. Carlton's stage was incredibly simple and the Goo Goo Dolls set was already in place, yet it took close to twenty minutes for the stage crew to remove the piano and the platform it was on. The Goo Goo Dolls then took the stage and opened with a couple lesser-known songs. Then, the third song in, Rzeznik swapped for an acoustic guitar, played the opening riff to "Slide" and the audience exploded. Following "Slide," they played tracks mostly off of the albums "Let Love In" and "Something for the Rest of Us" as well as a string of hits including "Name," "Better Days," "Here is Gone," "Black Balloon," and finishing up with "Iris". Robby Takac, the bassist and the band's original lead singer also sang about four or five songs and was certainly the most energetic member. The Goo Goo Dolls came back for an encore, finally ending with "Broadway," singing the opening chorus with the audience. Both Vanessa Carlton and the Goo Goo Dolls were excellent, taking the audience back to songs they grew up with and showing that, unlike many artists of today, real talent still exists.

Magic maze

Answers



COVER IT UP



Weekly SUDOKU

1	9	6	7	4	3	8	2	5
2	4	8	5	6	9	1	7	3
3	5	7	1	8	2	6	4	9
4	7	5	3	2	6	9	1	8
9	2	1	8	5	7	4	3	6
6	8	3	4	9	1	2	5	7
8	1	4	6	7	5	3	9	2
5	3	2	9	1	8	7	6	4
7	6	9	2	3	4	5	8	1

Answer

Sports Quiz

Answers

1. Dave Morehead, in 1965.
2. Wes Ferrell of Cleveland hit nine home runs in 1931.
3. The Garden State Bowl, in 1979.
4. Benoit Benjamin was 25 when he hit the 1,000-block mark in the 1989-90 season.
5. Sergei Fedorov, Alex Kovalev, Slava Kozlov, Alexei Zhitnik and Sergei Zubov.
6. Russia's Denis Pankratov, in 1996.
7. Six — two U.S. Opens (1968, '71), two British Opens ('71, '72) and two PGA Championships ('74, '84).

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Trivia Test

Answers

1. CD
2. bullfighting
3. Navigation
4. Vain boldness
5. Al-Magrib
6. Asprin
7. Kelvin
8. Miners
9. Australia
10. George Eliot

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	Y	P	E		G	U	S		I	C	E	O		
R	O	A	M		A	P	T		N	O	O	E		
S	U	R	F	R	I	S	E		T	O	G	A		
		I	O	N		W	E	A	S	E	L			
B	E	A	R	D		R	A	N	K					
B	A	A		M	O	L	O	Y		A	G	O		
I	S	L	E		S	U	R	V	E	Y	O	R		
B	A	A		M	O	L	O	Y		A	G	O		
S	U	R	N	A	M	E	S		F	R	E	T		
		A	G	E	S		J	A	D	E	S			
B	E	S	T	I	R		B	A	R					
O	A	M	U		S	U	R	R	O	U	N	D		
T	S	A	R		E	R	E		F	R	A	Y		
H	Y	O	E		T	N	T		T	I	N	E		

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Support your peers by tuning into GBTV on chonnel 8.2 ond the WNEK 105.1 radio stotion.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

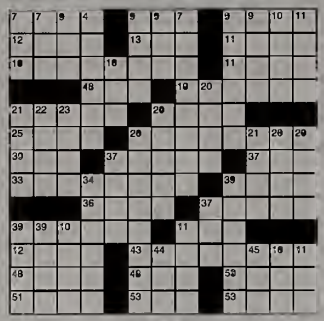
Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or send an e-mail to thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Meeting Time: Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.
in Rivers Room 105

PUZZLES

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Ballyhoo
5 Astronaut Grissom
8 On the rocks
12 Wander
13 Suitable
14 Protuberance
15 Something unexpected
17 Forum wear
18 Charged bit
19 "Pop Goes the —"
21 Whiskers
24 Relative standing
25 Capri or Wight
26 Land boundary finder
30 Sheep's call
31 Impaired by age and dampness
32 Past
33 Smith and Jones, e.g.
35 Worry
36 Census statistics
37 Arouses boredom
38 Incite to action
41 Tavern
42 Hawaiian island
43 Encircle
48 Despot
49 Before
50 Become unraveled
51 Jekyll's bad side
52 Potent stick
53 Monetary penalty

DOWN
1 120 min. = 2—
2 Thee
3 Standard
4 Ottoman, for one
5 Prolit
6 Boom times
7 Managers
8 Amount consumed
9 Dove's calls
10 Advantage
11 Transaction
16 Scepter
20 A deadly sin
21 Drool catchers
22 Birthright barterer
23 Winglike
24 Regulations
26 English county
27 Three feet
28 Curved molding
29 Deteriorates
31 Creche trio
34 Character
35 Way out there
37 It holds the mayo
38 This and that
39 Simple
40 Roe provider
41 Author Harte
44 Coffee vessel
45 Mentalist Geller
46 A Bobbsey twin
47 Hair coloring

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		8			3	8		
2			5				7	
	5			8				9
	7			2			1	
9			8			4		
		3			1			7
		4			5	3		
	3			1			6	
7			2					1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MATH: What is the Roman numeral for the Arabic number 400?
2. PERFORMANCES: At what event would someone perform a maneuver called the veronica?
3. EXPLORATION: What was the sextant once used for?
4. MUSIC: What does the musical term "con bravura" mean?
5. LANGUAGE: In Arabic, what is the country of Morocco called?
6. INVENTIONS: What common drug was introduced to the world by Felix Hoffmann?
7. MEASUREMENTS: What is the basic unit of temperature?
8. MOVIES: What did the dwarfs do for a living in Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"?
9. GEOGRAPHY: Which nation has a major wine-producing region called Adelaide Hills?
10. LITERATURE: What was the pen name of writer Mary Ann Evans?

MAGIC MAZE

COVER IT UP

J K I F D A X V H D T Q O M J
H F C Y A H Y C A W U R P N L
J H F S C I T E M S O C D B Z
X V T R Q A R O O M O K I H F
D L B Z P P R Y L V W V T R Q
O N I E S L K I E C I H F P D
C A Y D H A I R P I E C E U Z
X E E E E P U O T S W L I E V
V B U S R P D I A D N A B K R
Q K S A M E G A L F U O M A C
O N T M K S N I A T R U C M T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Band-Aid
Bedspread
Camouflage
Conspiracy
Cosmetics
Cover-up
Curtains
Eye patch
Hairpiece
Lid
Makeup
Tablecloth
Tarp
Toupee
Veil

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graduating seniors

Don't Miss Out

Everything you need to know to prepare for Commencement on May 21, 2011 is on the Commencement website at:

http://www.wnec.edu/commencement

Be sure to check it out so you don't miss an important date, time, or event. Give the website address to your family – There are things they also need to know.

Sports

WNEC Softball takes double header

By: Hannah Berling

The Golden Bear Women's Softball team won both games in a double header against Roger Williams University, the first 2-0 and the second 12-2, increasing their record to 10-4 in The Commonwealth Coast Conference play.

In game one, Western New England was able to pull out the win in a pitcher's duel between WNEC junior pitcher, Sarah Lempicki and Roger Williams sophomore, Kelly Marcin that ended with each team only collecting four hits apiece.

The only two runs of the game came in the bottom of the fifth for the Golden Bears. One run was scored on an RBI double by freshman third baseman Katie Eckhert. Eckhert then scored the second run on an infield error by Roger Williams.

Winning pitcher Sarah Lempicki got the win in game one, pitching a complete game, striking out six, and allowing no runs. She increased her record for the season to 6-3.

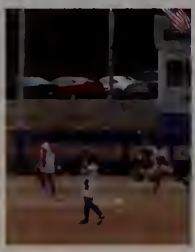

Image: Hannah Berling

The Western New England College bats came to life even more in game two of the doubleheader, which they won 12-2 in five innings.

The Golden Bears' runs came in the bottom of the second and third where the girls score five and seven runs respectively. Roger Williams used three pitchers in the game after Kelly Marcin was driven out of the game after pitching two and one third innings, giving up eight runs (four earned) on six hits. Junior pitcher, Stacy Broughton pitched one and two third innings, giving up four earned runs on five hits. The third pitcher was junior infielder, Kara Lewis who pitched one third innings, giving up no hits and earning no runs.

Junior right fielder, Rachel Wyrwa had three RBIs in the game with two hits and one run scored. Center fielder, Maria Francese and designated player, Sarah Lempicki had two RBI each and first baseman, Tricia Breault scored two runs.

Roger Williams two runs in the game were scored on a two run homerun by junior shortstop, Hannah Pirez in the top of the first.

This sweep of the double header gives the Golden Bears a 15-12 overall record and a 10-4 record in conference play.

Their next game is a double header versus Nichols College at WNEC on Wednesday, April 20. Their last home game will be a double header played on Wednesday, April 27 at 3:30 p.m. versus Williams College.

Athletic Director to be coach

By: Anthony Camardi

Next winter, athletic director, Mike Theulen will be returning to the sidelines for his second stint as head coach of Western New England after his first stint from 2004-2008, where he will be the new face on the bench leading the Golden Bear Men's Basketball team.

Coach Theulen will be replacing Chris Agoglia, who had played for Coach Theulen for three years at Springfield College. He had been an assistant coach for three seasons before becoming the head coach for the last three seasons, posting a 25 and 51 record in that time. Agoglia resigned after the 2010-2011 season, but will continue his teaching duties to fulfill his contract with the college.

"Chris has done a great job while at Western New England and I wish him all the best," said Coach Theulen. "We have been close for a very long time and this has not changed our relationship one bit."

To compensate for Coach Theulen's duty as head coach, day to day operations have been dispersed throughout the rest of the athletic department. Assistant athletic directors, Joe Sassi and Cyndi Costanzo will be the recipients of these duties for both the men's and women's programs. Other duties will be given to other coaches in the department, such as NCAA compliance rules taken up by Matthew Labranche, the Men's Baseball coach. Contest management will be taken up by Women's Basketball coach, Nicole Chaszar.

"I have a great department and I believe this will be a great opportunity for them to show their ability to act on their own with more responsibility and authority," said Coach Theulen. "I will remain as full time Athletic Director, but it will be as more of a supervisory role. I will still attend as many home games as possible just as I had done while not being head coach. I am very excited for this opportunity and cannot wait to get things going. It's a brand new ball game now."

Golden Bears defeat neighborhood rivals

By: Hannah Berling

Golden Bears Baseball scored 17 runs on 18 hits to defeat their non-conference neighborhood rivals, the Springfield Pride, 17-7 on Monday, April 10.

The Golden Bears had aggressive innings in both the bottom of the second and the bottom of the fourth in which they scored six runs each. The bats never seemed to slow down as every Golden Bear player collected at least one hit and scored at least one run in this high scoring game.

Image: Hannah Berling

Sophomore outfielder, Casey Dadio, finished the game with three RBIs on three hits, scoring one run. He was joined in the three hit club by senior third baseman, Tony Trubia and senior outfielder, Andrew Fatse.

Senior pitcher, Zach Cloft picked up the win for the Golden Bears, raising his season record to 4-1. Cloft pitched six innings in the game, allowing only two earned runs and walking just one Pride batter. The losing pitcher was Springfield College freshman, James Christensen who allowed nine earned runs in three innings pitched, giving up six hits and surrendering five walks.

On the losing side of the game, Springfield College senior outfielder, John Schmaltz had three hits, including a double, scored a run and picked up and RBI.

Even though this game was not a conference game, it still helped bolster the Golden Bear's overall season record to 23-7.

The next Golden Bear baseball home game will take place on Thursday, April 21 versus Westfield State at 3:30 p.m. This is the last home game of the season and will be senior day for graduating athletes.

1. Who threw the last Red Sox no hitter before Hideo Nomo in 2001?
2. Who holds the record for most home runs hit by a pitcher for a season?
3. What was the last bowl game in which the Temple Owls football team played before 2009's EagleBank Bowl?
4. In 2010, Atlanta's Josh Smith became the youngest player in NBA history (24) to block 1,000 shots in his career. Who had been the youngest?
5. In 2010, Ottawa defenseman Sergei Gonchar became the sixth Russian to play in 1,000 NHL games. Name three of the first five to do it.
6. Name the last time a non-American male won the Olympic 200-meter butterfly.
7. How many majors did golfer Lee Trevino win during his PGA Tour career?

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The Westerner

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**Comments?
Suggestions?
Angry letters?**

**Please e-mail:
thewesternersn@yahoo.com**

WNE students make "Extreme" difference

By: Hannah Berling

The popular television show Extreme Makeover Home Edition rolled its bus into Springfield two weeks ago and many of WNE's student leaders went to lend a helping hand with the project.

Extreme Makeover Home Edition cast and crew arrived in Springfield to help rebuild the Walker family home. The mother of the family was dealing with the loss of one of her children who committed suicide after being bullied in school. A large group of WNE students made their way to the build site to volunteer for a night.

"Being involved with such a project helped me realize that sometimes people who need help can be given a second chance on life. Extreme Home Makeover was able to provide the Walker family with that second chance and unite the community all at the same time," sophomore Matthew Amaral, who spent a good part of his volunteering time on the roof of the new house, said of the experience.

Image: Hannah Berling

The largest group of WNE students helped on the site starting at 8:00pm the Wednesday of the build and working until 2:00am on Thursday. When this group arrived the house had a plywood roof and no front porch; six hours later the roof was completely shingled and finished, a front porch was almost complete, and a large amount of electrical work had been completed.

Continued on page 2

Updated security in the D'Amour Library

By: Chantel Branco

Starting at the beginning of this fall semester, staff members of the D'Amour Library have been implementing a new security policy that is more in alignment with that of the other buildings on campus. The new security policy requires the front entrance of the D'Amour Library to be locked from 10:00pm to 12:00am Sunday through Thursday and 5:00pm to 8:00pm on Friday and Saturday. Also, more cameras have been added to the basement floor of the library for added security during late night study hours, which run from midnight to 7:45 am Sunday through Thursday.

The updated security in the library is to help the staff keep track of who is in the building, and provide a safe environment for all D'Amour Library users. Also, this new policy makes it easier to enforce the guest user policy which requires all non-University affiliated users to register and present proper identification at the Circulation desk.

During the hours of lock down, Western New England University students can swipe their Identification Cards for access into the building, but any person without a WNE student I.D. must call the Circulation desk to be let inside.

The Westerner spoke with Priscilla Perkins, Director of the library, and she was able to give us some insight into the library and the updates to the security policy.

pGina, she informed us, is the computer login software used for all of the computers in the D'Amour Library and also other computer labs on campus. With this software, the librarians are able to keep track of who is using the library computers and limit the amount of time guest users are able to access them. In the D'Amour Library there are nine guest passes available at a time. These passes last for an hour, after which point guest users may renew their pass one time for a second hour. She also mentioned that all users should remember to log off when finished using the computers.

There are 123 computers in the D'Amour library (not including the ones in the computer lab on the basement floor) which are all available to WNE students. Cooperating Colleges of Greater Springfield students are also allowed to use all of those computers on any floor, while non-University affiliated users are restricted to the first floor only. CCGS students are students from colleges in the surrounding area which include Bay Path College, American International College, Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield College, Westfield State University, Holyoake Community College, and Western New England University. Students from any of the aforementioned schools have access to any of the other schools libraries, and their resources.

"The school wants to be a resource for the community, and we want to balance that with providing a safe environment for all library users," said Mrs. Perkins. "We appreciate how well the students have accepted the swipe access only policy" she added in regard to how understanding and cooperative WNE students have been. "I've never felt in danger on campus before, but knowing there is a little bit of added security when I'm working later hours on the weekends helps reassure me of our safety," said Cara Federici a WNE student and D'Amour Library employee.

FEATURES

Extreme Home Makeover cont. from first page.

"I couldn't believe how fast the house was built. All of the volunteers and employees of the show are truly miracle workers," sophomore Jill Carneglia, who was on the volunteer crew Wednesday, stated.

The volunteer movement towards the project was led by the Peer Advisors, who were featured in a press conference that the mayor gave about the event in mid-August.

"It was great to get out in a community announcement and for [the peer advisors] to work as active Springfield citizens," second year PA Allie Lombardi said. "I think it is great that we got to meet other student leaders and work together to help out others."

One WNE student got a completely different experience with the show. Senior management major Jackie Buczkowski was able to get a position as a production assistant for the build. Buczkowski was on site every day of the build from 10:30am until 11:00pm, helping the production crew of the show with basic tasks. On a daily basis she would clean the crew's RVs, fill water coolers, run errands, and covered brand labels that could not be shown on the show.

"I didn't work on the house much but stuff couldn't happen [on the show] without the production crew," Buczkowski stated. "They are an amazing group of people and I immediately felt invited and accepted."

Buczkowski also discussed how the week had a big focus on the anti-bullying movement and how the episode will focus a lot on that when it airs in early January. To see how some of the anti-bullying movement was put in action you can visit www.standtogether.tv and learn more about the cause.

Overall the volunteer experience offered students the chance to get a behind the scenes look at a popular television show while making a significant difference in the life of a Springfield family.

News from Student Senate

By: Steven Rodriguez

The late Alfred LaRiviere was a man that represented the spirit of Western New England University. He dedicated over thirty years of his life to listening to and caring about the students. After Mr. LaRiviere's passing last year, a memorial service was held by Student Senate to keep his spirit and memory alive forever. Student Senate decided to fund and support the installation of new lights in the Leadership Garden that would represent the light that Mr. LaRiviere shone, and will continue to shine, onto the lives of all University students. The light installation could not be completed by the time of the memorial service, but Student Senate is happy to announce that the lights are now installed in the Leadership Garden, next to the Campus Center. Student Senate welcomes the campus community to stop by the memorial and bask in the light of a great member of the Western New England community.

STUDENT SENATE

"The Voice of the Students"

Student Senate acts as a liaison between the University and the student associations on campus. The organization consists of a variety of people who represent each college (Business, Arts & Sciences, and Engineering). There are also representatives for each class, as well as commuter representatives, resident representatives, and Senators-at-Large. Within the Student Senate, there are four subcommittees that a senator may be a part of: Campus Relations, Finance, Legislative, and Publicity. We hosted elections on September 27th for the open positions we had. Hope you voted on your Connect2U account. It's your vote, your voice, your Senate!

Address to the campus

By: Corinne Gamache

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all the freshmen and transfer students who are starting their first semester at Western New England University. And also for the returning students, welcome back!

Many changes have occurred over the summer and for those of us returning, we have to get used to the fact that it's not WNEC anymore.

Along with the new name, other changes have come as well. Among them, Sleith has been renovated, opening the labs and classrooms on the third floor (which were previously offices for the science department), and there has been the addition of a new computer lab on the first floor for the mechanical engineers as well as new equipment for the other labs.

There was a shift in offices for many of the engineering departments and, far more importantly, there are ongoing renovations to the bathrooms on the first floor (they're bigger and gray-themed now instead of pale orange).

In food-related changes, there is the impending change from Quiznos to Subway, the new milkshake machine in the POD (for more information please refer to milkshake review on page 4), and the removal of the Java City in the library.

Also in the library, there have been some changes to the security policy (for more information, please refer to library security article on the first page).

In parking related news, the area behind La Riv has been paved, the parking lot in front of the donuts is now "Staff Only," and parking stickers are now "hourglass-ish" shaped instead of round.

In order to combat the lack of parking spots that was so controversial last year, the parking lot designations have been shuffled around again and the Welcome Center parking lot has been expanded.

Images: Corinne Gamache
New equipment in the AHLC's Wellness room

The highway and road signs now say "Western New England University," as do the lamppost banners, building signs, soap dispensers, and rugs.

Students will also notice new changes to the HLC, most noticeably (noticeable because it's so shiny) is the new floor in the gymnasium. The wellness center is also sporting brand new treadmills, ellipticals, and weight machines that are not only shiny and new, but also have touch screens with built in TVs and iPod connections that charge it and display your songs on the screen.

The area that used to be health services (which is in the CSP) is now being used for more athletics offices.

One of the most momentous events of the summer was when the tornadoes struck Massachusetts on June 1st. Despite the summer break, there were many students and staff still at the University when the first tornado ripped through the area. The twister passed just behind WNE on Plum Tree Road, destroying the cross country trails and the houses along the edge of the university property. WNE stepped up to help the community by arranging donation and clean up drives, sponsoring a Dial-A-Lawyer program to help with insurance claims, and allowing the tornado-damaged St. Michael's Academy Middle School to use the CSP classrooms for their students to finish off their school year.

Thanks to the hard work of the WNE staff, the buildings and the rest of campus has been renovated and improved to fit the university title. So welcome to the new Western New England University!

Features

The Staff

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Michelle Wigget
Steven Rodriguez

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Hannah Berling
Corinne Gamache

Advisor:
Ian Martin

Meet the Westerner staff!

Andrea Melone

Class of 2013

My name is Andrea. I'm majoring in creative writing, and going for a film minor. I'm a junior from Farmington, CT. As of right now, I am the secretary and copy editor for The Westerner, the secretary and Co-Awareness chair in CARE, and the vice president of the Global Sustainability Club; I'm also a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society. When I actually have spare time, I hand make my own jewelry, I happen to be a fan of a fair amount of British culture, and I both listen to and read books avidly (I'm a bit of an audiobook junkie). I am also left-handed, a vegetarian, and a serious craft enthusiast.

Hanah Berling

Class of 2013

My name is Hannah Berling I am a junior communications major with a concentration in Journalism. I am also the Comedy Chairperson for CAB, a member of GBTV, and have a part in WNEK. Being part of the Westerner is a natural fit for my journalism major, and my dream career is to be an entertainment journalist for Entertainment Weekly or The Hollywood Reporter. I am also a HUGE Red Sox fan and am obsessed with Glee.

Anthony Camardi

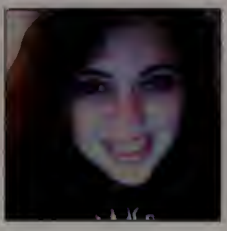
Class of 2012

Hello! My name is Anthony Camardi and I am a senior sports management major with a minor in economics. I have been on the Westerner staff for the better part of two years now and have been on the executive board as of last term. I have enjoyed my time with the Westerner primarily writing sports articles and being involved with a fun bunch of people. I am also an executive board member of the Sports Management Association and Golden Bear Television as well as a DJ for WNEK and a Finance Committee and Business Representative on Student Senate. I also love to travel around the world, play all sports, and am an avid New York Yankees, Jets, and Rangers fan.

Alexandra Carter

Class of 2013

Hi everyone! My name is Alexandra Carter and I am the assistant editor of the Westerner. I am a junior electrical engineering major concentrating in computer engineering. I come from the small town of Upton in the center of Massachusetts. I am part of various clubs on campus, including CAB Comedy, the Society of Women Engineers club, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers club. I enjoy reading and writing when I have spare time, and I am always up to hearing a good story. I love to dream and I like to write about my dreams when I wake up. I also love to use my noggin!



Chantel Branco

Class of 2013

Hey Everyone! My name is Chantel, and I'm editor in chief of The Westerner. I am a junior english major with a concentration in law and society. In the future, I plan to go to Law School in New York and practice law there as well. In the meantime I enjoy being involved on campus, participating in groups such as CAB, Pre-Law Society, and of course, The Westerner. One thing you probably didn't know about me is that I laugh louder and longer than anyone I know and usually at the wrong times. :)

FEATURES

Homecoming weekend at WNE

By: Mindy Blankenship

Image: Hannah Berling

Last weekend was Homecoming Weekend at Western New England University.

The festivities began at 8:00 on Friday night with make-your-own Gel Scapes, henna tattoos, and bamboo plants. If you missed it, Gel Scapes are like a decorative gel candle without the wick. Students got to put shells, flowers, sand, rocks and other objects into a glass jar and then fill it with gel. At 9:00, a concert was kicked off by a band from Boston, Follow Your Hero. Following that band came Everybody Else from Los Angeles.

Although muggy, Saturday was just as entertaining, if not more. As tradition dictates, there was a Homecoming weekend football game. Our Golden Bears played Nichols College in front of a full stadium. We ended up winning 38 to 23. The Men's Soccer team defeated Salve Regina 2-1. The Women's Volleyball Team won 3-0, beating Lyndon State. The Men's Golf team participated in the William's Invitational. On Saturday, the Men's Golf team came in 6th out of 18, and on Sunday, the team came in 9th out of 18. Unfortunately, the Women's Soccer team lost to Salve Regina 2-1. The Women's Field Hockey team also lost 0-2 to Gordon College. The Women's Tennis team lost 0-9 to Endicott College on Saturday. They made a comeback on Sunday though, beating the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts 0-9.

During the games, there were booths in front of the post office with great music, information, activities and a bouncy house for the alumnus who brought children.

At 6:30, The United and Mutually Equal club (U+ME) held its annual dinner in Rivers Memorial to welcome back returning and alumni members, as well as new students to the group. It was a chance for members to dress up, enjoy good food, listen to great music, and have an amazing time.

Everyone has heard of the College Humor group at one point or another. You may have "stumbled" upon their website, watched their skits on Youtube, or seen the comedians on Jimmy Fallon or another talk show. Regardless, they were at WNE at 8:00 in the Alumni Healthful Living center on Saturday Night.

They began the show with a "cool guy off" debating which of the hosts was "cool enough" for our school. It entailed a rap battle and who could be the better flirt. The first act after that was Dan Gurewitch. He told jokes that ranged from Glee to Internet dating. After him came Nick Vatterot who you can watch more of on an episode of Jimmy Fallon. His voices were hysterical and his jokes even funnier. The hosts rounded out the show with Shameless Trivia. The questions that were asked included naming four twilight characters in a picture and five Justin Bieber songs. The prizes were copies of the College Humor book. It truly was an amazing show that served as a conclusion to an amazing Homecoming weekend that hopefully no one missed.

WNE's Of The Month Awards

By: Amanda DeCosta

First, what is Of The Month Awards? Of The Month, or OTMs, are awards given out through the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH).

These awards recognize outstanding contributions to our Western New England Community, which range from programs to student leaders, faculty members and organizations that make an impact at our University.

Interested in recognizing someone for going above and beyond? What about an extraordinary program that has been brought to our campus? Then go on the OTM Database (www.otms.nrhh.org) and submit your nomination!

OTMs are due by the first of every month and are written on the month before (Example: On October 1st by 5:00pm, OTMs are due about September). Once you submit your nomination, members of NRHH vote on campus winners in each category and will display those winners on a bulletin board found in the back hallway of the Campus Center.

Think that's the end of our remarkable recognition? Not quite. If your nomination wins the Campus Level, it then competes against winners of other Colleges and Universities in our New England & New York region. If the OTM wins regionally, it then competes against the other regions of the United States. Winners will be announced every month.

For the Month of August, the following were our Campus Winners: Advisor: Ian Martin*, Community: Residence Life Staff, Executive Board Member: Matthew Amaral (the Recruitment & Retention Chair), Organization: Campus Activities Board (CAB), Social Program: Casino Night, Spotlight: Melissa Lambert*, and Student: Cassandra Deal

Congratulations to all our nominees for their hard work and dedication! If you have any questions about how to submit an OTM, what NRHH is about or would like more information, please email the Chapter at keizerNRHH@gmail.com.

*Both nominations for Ian Martin and Melissa Lambert won regionally and will now compete against the Nation's submissions.

F'Real Milkshake review

By: Sarah Whiles

You may have noticed the new adddition to the POD store: a F'Real milkshake machine. Like many other Western New England students, I couldn't wait to try one. I've tried almost all of them—Reese's, coffee cappuccino, mango, mocha coffee, and, my personal favorite, cookies and cream.

I was incredibly impressed with each one. None were too sweet, and each stayed true to its flavor description.

A major complaint with most milk shakes or smoothies is that after awhile, the taste becomes overwhelming, and I am unable to finish them; however, I never had this problem with the F'Real milk shakes.

I highly recommend them to anyone who likes ice cream. They are a really satisfying blend of sweet, filling, and refreshing.

Not only are the flavors great, but they are extremely easy to make. All I had to do was pick a cup containing the flavored ice cream, put it in the machine next to the counter, then select how thick I wanted my shake to be, another neat feature of the F'Real milk shakes.

Getting to customize the thickness is something you cannot do with the Java City Javalanches. Also, when you lift up the lid, cute expressions appear.

One of the most memorable is: "In other languages, it's still 'mmmm.'" Oher cute expressions appear as the machine stirs your shake.

Next time you're in the mood for a cool treat, try one of the F'Real milk shakes in the Pod at the campus center.

Features

Book Review

By: Jennifer Chiacchio

Image: Atria Books Photo

In Jodi Picoult's most recent novel, *Sing You Home*, the author once again does what she is most famous for: taking a touchy, controversial topic, and writing a page-turning book that you won't want to put down. Picoult, who puts out a new novel every year, is also the author of the widely popular book (that was also turned into a movie), *My Sister's Keeper*. In *Sing You Home*, Picoult once again takes an issue out of the real world, this time it being the debate over gay marriage, religion, and what it means to be a family.

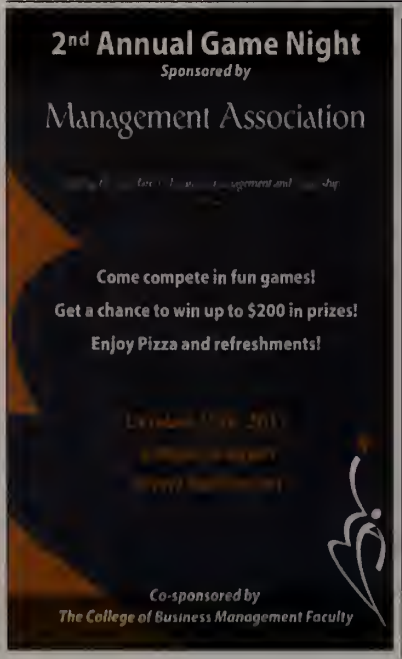
After facing countless fertility problems, we join Zoe Baxter; a forty-year-old woman who has spent the past ten years of her life trying to have a baby, during her twenty-seventh week of pregnancy. When a nightmare strikes, the baby that Zoe already adores is taken away from her, and the tragedy in turn breaks apart her marriage to her husband, Max. Zoe, a music therapist, turns to music and her job to help her heal, and out of it she meets Vanessa, a school guidance counselor. In Vanessa, Zoe finds the first friend she's had in years, but also, unexpected love.

While Zoe's been finding help through music, her job, and her new relationship, Max finds help in a bottle of alcohol, but eventually goes on to find help in his religious brother's church, who's pastor, Clive Lincoln, has made it his personal mission to fight what he calls the homosexual agenda. Meanwhile, when Zoe is looking to try and start a family again, this time with Vanessa, she remembers the three frozen embryos from her and Max's countless tries at IFV. When Zoe approaches the possibility of her and Vanessa using the embryos to begin a family with Max and he in turn confides in his pastor, a legal battle that might just destroy both Max and Zoe begins.

Told in the alternating points of view of Zoe, Max, and Vanessa, *Sing You Home* explores many questions concerning what it means to be gay, what it means for a gay couple to have a family, and what happens when these issues are forced in front of a judge. Perhaps the most important question of all that *Sing You Home Explores* is family – what is a family nowadays? Is there a "traditional family" in this day and age...should there be?

Included with every copy of *Sing You Home*, is a CD of music, with original songs designed to correspond with each chapter, and let the reader really hear Zoe Baxter's voice.

Full of real world issues, interesting characters, and a page-turning plot, *Sing You Home* is one book that won't be left gathering dust on your bookshelf, because you will want to know what happens next all the way to the end, where you'll find one of Picoult's classic "leave you thinking" endings.



Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

1.) Carry a water bottle

Instead of wasting money and plastic on water bottles, buy a filter (they are relatively inexpensive and last a while) and use a fun refillable water bottle.

2.) Recycle!

It's especially green to recycle old paper, considering how much adds up from class notes, quizzes, newspapers, exams, term papers, and everything else printed out and typically thrown out. Also avoid throwing away cans, bottles, and cardboard.

3.) Limit the use of a car

Try to limit the use of a car; save money on gas and take a public bus (PVTA's rates are a mere $1.25), bike, or walk. Commuters can also consider carpooling if near enough classmates.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard. If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff.

Meeting are Tusedays @ 7 pm in Rivers 105

Features & Puzzles

Midnight Maddness at WNE

By: Michelle Wiggett

Close your eyes and envision a crowd of blue, green, red, and yellow. Suddenly, the crowd erupts in cheers as a dodge ball game begins on the floor of the field house. You join in and cheer on your classmates as they battle it out, hoping your class will gain victory when the final ball hits the ground.

The time of year when classes go head to head in competition, winter sports teams kick off their seasons, and councils show their moves on the dance floor, is quickly approaching! This year's Midnight Madness will be held on Friday, November 4th, from 9:00 – 11:00pm in the Alumni Healthful Living Center.

For those of you who may be new to the Western New England Community, Midnight Madness is a campus tradition that allows students to come together for a night of competition and fun. While the night may focus on the uniting of the four classes, each class battles their hearts out to gain the glory of being Midnight Madness Champions.

This clash of the classes is both adrenalin-filled and a chance for you to proudly wear your class color and come together to celebrate the pride Western New England students have for this campus.

Want to be part of the action? Join the Midnight Madness committee and let your ideas come to life the night of the event.

Meetings will be starting within the coming weeks and more information will be posted around campus as to when and where they will be held. So come join the fun and be part of the tradition that is all about competition, unity, and pride for Western New England!

Hello Golden Bears!

Do you have a poem, short story, or piece of artwork you would like for the world to see (and by world I mean campus)??
You can submit your pieces to The Review of Art and Literature:
wnereview@gmail.com
or
drop it in the submissions box outside of rivers 107.
Please include your name, major, and year.
Cassandra Deal, Editor

Support your peers by tuning into GBTV on chonnel B.2 ond the WNEK 105.1 rodio stotion.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

MAGIC MAZE

Y A X U R Y O L J H G L D A X
V S P N P K I F I C O C A X V
S Q O P L J H G E R C A Y A X
V G A W N I H C T T R R B P N
L N J H F S D E B Y X A B V T
R P N O T O P S O M K V O R Y
Y I G R E D N I M Y B A B E E
E R E D B S R E K C I N K G M
Z E R I H R A C X W U I T N I
T R Q O O N S P S I R C L A L
J E K O L B I G F C D C A B B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Baby minder, Banger, Blimey, Bloke, Bobby, Cer hire, Caravan, Chin-wag, Cnkey, High street, Knickers, Lorry, Nappy, Petrol, Spot on

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BRIT SPEAK

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2			7					4
		9		6		9		
	4				9		3	
7			5				9	
		8			1	2		
	5			2				1
	6		1					7
5					6	4		
		3		4			8	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging ★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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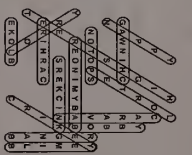
Magic maze Answers



BRIT SPEAK

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

9	1	3	2	4	7	5	8	6
5	7	2	3	8	6	4	1	9
8	6	4	1	9	5	3	2	7
3	5	6	9	2	8	7	4	1
4	9	8	6	7	1	2	5	3
7	2	1	5	3	4	6	9	8
6	4	7	8	5	9	1	3	2
1	3	9	4	6	2	8	7	5
2	8	5	7	1	3	9	6	4

Sports quiz Answers

1. Brian Hunter (74) and Tony Womack (60) combined for 134 in 1997.
2. The Los Angeles Dodgers' Ramon Martinez, in 1995.
3. It was after the 1957 season.
4. The Knicks, Grizzlies, Clippers, Timberwolves and Heat.
5. Six — Martin Brodeur, Henrik Lundqvist, Miikka Kiprusoff, Jonathan Quick, Craig Anderson and Evgeni Nabokov.
6. Jimmie Johnson, in 2009
7. Wimbledon was not among her seven Grand Slam titles.

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Opinion

Underestimating Irene

By: Hannah Berling

We took to Facebook, joked with our friends, and laughed in response to the cancellation of our first day of classes. Anticipation of Hurricane Irene caused WNE to close on Monday August 29th to keep students safe inside their residence halls or at home.

The brunt of the storm was supposed to hit on Sunday, but by the time we were heading to bed Sunday night, all we had seen was some rain and a few leaves blown off trees. The next day students rejoiced at this seemingly free day off. On Facebook, students posted statuses like "nice try Irene" or "it was nice of WNE to close on such a gorgeous day." We joked about the storm that wasn't. For some WNE students though, Irene was much more than a joke.

I was like everyone else, and I took to Facebook and posted a joking status about how Irene messed up my plans to go out and make a hurricane weather report. I laughed with everyone else, until I saw a picture. The picture was posted by a girl I went to high school with, which showed a business her family owned a couple towns over from where I live, completely flooded.

Image: Olivia Carter

It dawned on me that many students, while not affected at school, could have had their hometown torn apart. Students from Vermont especially, where some towns were cut off completely by flood waters, know that Irene was no laughing matter.

I listened to a student in one of my classes give a presentation on how her town - and the towns surrounding it - were hit. I couldn't believe the stories she told. I live on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and this student lives in the town in Vermont right across the river from me. Coming to the reality that places near my house were hit so hard shook me.

My mom called me and told me about how some businesses in one of the main shopping towns near my house lost everything; some won't reopen until after Christmas, some won't reopen at all.

On campus, I heard other students discussing how their towns were flooded or how downed trees knocked their power out for over a week. It didn't take me long to realize that I, along with many other people, had underestimated Irene.

Some people may say that Hurricane Irene is old news, but tell that to any student who may not have a home to go back to, whose parents are not working due to damage at their workplace, or students who may not even have roads into their town.

Instead of laughing at how "lame" Irene was, I am now looking at the situation completely different. We should all be thankful that we were here, at school, where we were safe and not somewhere left to pick up the pieces of the storm.

Obama: The Ultimate People President?

By: Kyle Wolf

Dear America,

Remember when then Senator Obama promised that if he was elected he would bring change to America? Change, according to Mr. Obama, included lifting the middle class out of their rapidly sinking status, becoming a champion for social justice, and having an open, honest, relationship with the American people. Mr. Obama tried to echo the sentiments of FDR by being another President for the people. He tried to emulate the personality of FDR by addressing the nation weekly on the radio. The newly elected President rode the wave of popularity his first few months and promised that he would open the isles to the Republicans and would issue the new wave of bipartisanship.

Funny, though, I can't remember when he was open, honest, or bringing change. If Mr. Obama truly wanted to be another president for the people and wanted to raise the middle class up out of their financial woes, he probably would not have pushed so hard for the $1 trillion Obamacare bill to pass against the will of the people.

Here's the logic: The middle class is hurting, feeling the heat from rising taxes and cost of living expenses paired with disproportional pay. Let's throw one more expense their way: healthcare costs. While it is not immediately being funded by an increase in taxes, it's just adding to the deficit. Something our generation has to pay for!

Now another goal of Obama was to be bipartisan. He promised that the Democrats and Republicans would work hand and hand with each other. They would "extend their hands across the isle." Did that happen? Well with Obamacare, the Democrats refused to compromise with the Repuhlicans. Clearly President Obama truly wanted to help the middle class since they'd never vote Republican.

Well, America, your prize child has done it again. Earlier this week, executives of the bankrupt Solyndra planned to plead the Fifth as they head off to their Congressional Hearing. What is Solyndra, you may ask? Solyndra was a solar energy company that began the process for a $535 million loan from the federal government during the Bush years. However, a committee determined that the company was mismanaged, and had misrepresented its financial situation.

However, with the Obama administration taking power in 2009, they were approved for a federal taxpayer-backed loan under the $787 billion stimulus package. All this against the better judgment of the Office of Management and Budget of his own administration! With a taxpayer guaranteed loan, Solyndra began spending money for a $344 million factory to do what with? Act as a large storage facility for pallets of unsold solar panels. And this week, Solyndra went out of business, leaving tax payers to pick up the tab for the mismanagement of Solyndra and the unquestionable wisdom of the Obama. At one point, Obama had said that Solyndra was the poster child of his administration's efforts to push the clean-energy industry. Very good, President Obama. Looks like I have to pay for your mistakes with my $8.91/hour job.

Don't think that our all loving, all ethical, and inclusive president is a stranger to scandals. This is the third of his very expensive term as president. First there was the Fast and Furious case, where the U.S. government sold automatic weapons to Mexican drug-cartel killers. Then Solyndra. Now, Lightsquared is in the process of acquiring an unusual wavier to allow the company to build a national 4G wireless network for the masses. So let's give everyone wireless access while destroying the Military's GPS capabilities. That makes sense. As a side note, Lightsquared was a confirmed donor for many democratic fundraisers.

Now for you, President Obama.

President Obama, I don't want mandatory universal healthcare that I can't afford or don't need. I also don't want to have my money be spent on the mismanagement of a company of which I have never heard. Also, I don't want to sell weapons to drug cartels in Mexico that will kill unknown amounts of people, and I also don't want to eliminate free enterprise and give Lightsquared unlimited access to build a national wireless network at the expense of national defense.

This is the United States. Not Europe, or China. AMERICA. We encourage capitalism. Free enterprise. Personal responsibility and a strong military.

Try it out, you just may like it.

Sincerely,
Kyle Wolf

Sports

Downes Hall of Fame induction

By: Corinne Gamache

On Friday, September 23, the Downes Hall of Fame inducted seven new members ranging from the class of 2005 all the way back to the class of 1976. The inductees were Joanne Bovat, Ed Sandifer, Bill Moge, Don Nault, Kyle Snurkowski, Kelli Arsenault, and Adrienne Brevetti.

Joanne Bovat has been Office Manager of the athletics department for the past 40 years. She began working with Coach Bill Downes (for whom the Hall of Fame is named for) and works with the coaches and faculty to keep day-to-day operations running smoothly. Downes inducted her, saying that he relies on her completely, especially for technological aspects of the job.

Ed Sandifer founded the cross country team at Western New England back in 1980 and led the team to fifth at the NAIA New England Championship only a year later. In addition to coaching, Sandifer was also a math professor and head of the Quantitative Methods department. He was remembered for his "chocolate chip cookie runs" and for letting a friend win a race so they could get an athletic scholarship to the University of Hartford. An extremely accomplished runner, Sandifer had completed his 37th Boston Marathon in 2009, but tragically suffered a debilitaing stroke a year later. The effects of the stroke were visible on Friday night, yet the audience was touched at how Sandifer still managed to walk up to the podium and make a heartfelt, though halting, speech.

Bill Moge was inducted by his two sons who explained how he was a fantastic father as well as a fantastic football player. A top-ranked quarterback in the National Club Sports Association, Moge helped Western New England to gain the fourth place national ranking in 1975. He received the DJ St. Germain MVP Trophy as a senior and finished his career with over 1900 yards passing and 25 touchdowns in 13 contests. Moge displayed his legendary wit in his speech, referencing everything from Back to the Future, politics, and MC Hammer, to jokes about his less-than-perfect GPA.

Don Nault was also inducted by Downes, who called him the "best sweeper in the northeast." A soccer standout in the late 70's, Nault led the team to 20 wins until he was injured in his junior year, coming back as a senior to help take eight more wins.

Baseball phenomenon Kyle "Snurk" Snurkowski was remembered as the "bulldog on the mound" for his aggressive pitching style. With a 1.09 earned-run-average in his junior year (and 3.27 for all four years), he pitched in the team's first ever GNAC Tournament and in the NCAA Division III Championship. Snurkowski thanked his teammates and his wife for their support.

Image: Corinne Gamache

For anyone who has used the pool in the HLC, one name repeats over and over again in the list on the wall of swimming records. Kelly Arsenault broke ten of those records and still holds eight of them, as well as being the all time points leader. She was remembered for her "talent and heart" and thanked her mother reminiscing on how she would wait for hours just to see her daughter swim "from one side of the pool and back."

Tennis legend Adrienne Brevetti helped raise her team from having barely enough players to having double the players as other teams. She finished her junior year undefeated and led the team to a 2003 championship as being the only New England team to finish undefeated 16-0. With an 83% win record, Brevetti was named to ESPN magazine's District 1 team twice and Western New England's Female Athlete of the Year in her senior year.

Contact: *Ken Cerino, Western New England athletic communications director (413) 782-1227 kcerino@wne.edu*

WNE's students play their first rugby game

By: Andrea Melone

The Western New England Rugby team had a rough start to the season at their first game against Springfield College September 23. With a final score of 38-15, Springfield, WNE students came home not victorious, but with hopes to get a win at their next game.

It's not over yet for the team by any means. Springfield College, which won the division last year, is tough competition. They're known to have a supreme backline, and to pull tricky stunts, switches, and skips.

At the game, David Shermer scored the first try during the first half. In the second half, Team Captain John "Little Bear" Costello and La Quan Schoolfield each scored another try, giving the team a final score of fifteen points.

The team has a strong combination of returning members as well as new players this year. "I'm really excited for the new kids keeping the program alive," said Team Captain Tom LeClair. "The first couple of weeks have been a lot of learning. Once we get some experience under our belt, we'll be a force to be reckoned with!"

Image: Amanda DeCosta

Western New England Rugby is in their fourth year, and is not school affiliated. They hope to eventually become a club sport on campus.

"We would have to make club sports happen first," stated Coach Rob Guiry, noting that in order for rugby to be school-affiliated as a club sport, there would have to be selected other club sports in general. "I want to provide as many opportunities as I can to the rugby players to advance their ability to align themselves with the University."

The team's goal this year is nationals. "It's on the schedule," Guiry said confidently. He believes that if they set it as their goal, they can achieve it. "We have to focus on one game at a time, one week at a time."

To support the Western New England Rugby team, watch them play their next game against Central Connecticut State University on October 1 at 4:00pm.

1. Jacoby Ellsbury and Michael Bourn, the A.L. and N.L. leaders in stolen bases in 2009, respectively, combined for 131 stolen bases. When was the last time before 2009 that the two stolen-base leaders topped 131?
2. In 2009, Philadelphia's Roy Halladay became the second pitcher to no-hit the Florida Marlins in their history. Who was the first to do it?
3. When was the last time before the 2009 season that Ohio State and Oregon met in the Rose Bowl?
4. In the summer of 2009, Quentin Richardson was traded four times. Name three of the five NBA teams involved in the deals.
5. How many goaltenders played at least 70 games in the 2009-10 NHL season?
6. Who was the first NASCAR driver to be named Athlete of the Year by The Associated Press?
7. Name the only Grand Slam event tennis player Justine Henin did not win during her career?

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

CAB brings Halloween to campus during Freak Week

By: Sarah Whiles

Freak Week this year occurred last week, October 24 through October 30. All daytime activities took place in the Campus Center mall area from 11:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. It began with pumpkin painting on Monday. On Tuesday, the annual Psychic fair returned with psychic readings and henna tattoos. Thursday, students mug shots were taken and put on mugs, and students made wax hands. Thursday night, the Comedy Committee of Campus Activities Board hosted KT Tatara at 8:00 P.M. in the Rock Café. Saturday, the Murder Mystery Dinner took place, followed by a costume contest, in dining room B. All the fun ended in an exciting trip to Salem on Sunday, immediately followed by the showing of Scream IV in Rivers Arena at 7:00 P.M.

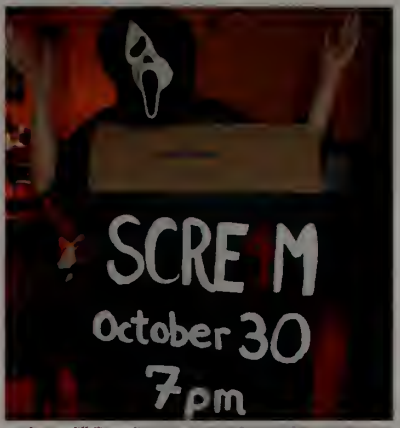

Image: Jill Carneglia

"I was at the pumpkin painting for a few hours Monday, painting multiple pumpkins. It was a great time, and Freak Week was awesome," stated sophomore Alyssa Brunski.

The preparation for Freak Week took a lot of planning, starting last spring. The Traditions Committee of CAB, hosting the majority of the events, had to decide which events to host, and how best to publicize them. They had to collaborate with other CAB committees to make other events available during Freak Week. The main challenges faced in preparation were working with the budget allocated to this event and coping with last minute changes.

"The events were very successful. More students attended these events than I expected, and they seemed to really enjoy themselves," stated Traditions Chairperson, Missy Sugrue. "My expectations were definitely met. Freak Week could not have been accomplished without the help of the rest of the Traditions Committee, CAB Executive Board, and CAB faculty advisors."

Met's general manager Sandy Alderson visits WNE

By: Robert Carvalho

The Mets may not have had an out-of-the-park season, but one of their executives was a home run at Western New England.

Sandy Alderson, General Manager of the New York Mets, visited campus on October 20th as a part of the "For the Love of the Games" series.

Alderson spoke to students filling the auditorium in Sleith Hall, covering topics such as his career, the practices that led to the creation of "Moneyball," and what goes on off of the field for the teams that he has worked for.

"My approach is, from an organizational standpoint, is to provide structure, to provide quality people, and then introduce processes that hopefully lead to good decisions." Alderson said, speaking on his multiple occupations in executive baseball settings.

Image: Hannah Berling

Alderson was hired as the General Manager of the Mets in October of 2010, after being CEO of the San Diego Padres from 2005 to 2009. He had previously served as general counsel, and later as general manager of the Oakland Athletics, and then as executive vice president for baseball operations.

During his time as general manager of the A's, Alderson hired and mentored Billy Beane, who became his successor as GM. Beane is also famous for his use of sabermetric principles to make the A's one of the most cost-efficient teams in the league; his success in this venture is the reason for his portrayal by Brad Pitt as the main character in the new movie Moneyball, based off of a book of the same name written by Michael Lewis.

"The thing about sports– it's true in business, in anything we do, really – you can't really guarantee anything, but you can try to enhance your chances, improve the probabilities." said Alderson. "That's the way we approach things."

The "For the Love of the Games" series, hosted by the School of Business' Center for International Sport Business, invites influential sports figures to speak about their experiences and offer their knowledge for students to follow. Alderson is the tenth speaker in the history of the series, which began in 2007.

Video coverage of the event can be found in a link from the News page of the University's website, or on the Western New England YouTube page.

News

CAB hosts Family and Friends Weekend

By: Molly Higbie

Image: Jessie Succoso

On October 21st through the 23rd, the Campus Activities Board sponsored a Safari themed Family and Friends weekend. Throughout the weekend, there were events planned by CAB, RHA and the Athletics department.

Friday, families and friends were invited to swing in to the Campus Center for registration and then participate in The Feud. This interactive game show had the audience and participants laughing like hyenas as well as winning fabulous prizes.

Saturday, the Campus Center was transformed into the Serengeti as guests came to "monkey around." There were activities such as a balloon artist, make your own bamboo plants and air fresheners and Safari photo postcards. Families were then invited to the various athletic games on campus and RHA's annual Bed Race. At night, the mentalist, Craig Karges wowed the audience with his mind-reading act while they enjoyed Safari themed desserts.

The weekend concluded at the Watering Hole, Cafeteria A, with a Safari Brunch. Families joined the Safari Animals and said their good-byes over yummy Brunch food.

Overall, the weekend was a success thanks to Family and Friends Chairperson Jessie Succoso and her committee. Families and friends of Western New England Students had a blast on their Safari Weekend Adventure.

Global Sustainability club helps clean Springfield

By: Andrea Melone

The WNE Global Sustainability Club took a small step towards cleaning up Springfield. In between classes on Tuesday, October 18, members of the club collected garbage and recyclables along Breckwood road up to the little park.

The club took the idea "think global, act local," to heart, making an effort to clean up the litter of a nearby area close enough for WNE students to appreciate. From 12:30 until 3:00, students took garbage bags around the little park and along the side of the road, picking up old food wrappers, bottles, and even tires, excavating through layers of grungy and partially disintegrated materials, getting dirty in the process and not caring.

"It was crazy how much garbage was all over the park!" stated Cara Federici, member of the club who participated in the cleanup. "I'm glad that we could clean up as much as possible!"

As the first project the club took on this semester, it was a strong first step towards uniting the club's members both old and new, particularly getting the freshmen involved and engaged. Students were able to come and go based on their availability, making the project flexible for students with busy schedules.

The more students worked, the more garbage they discovered. Some litter might not have been obvious, but once students began hunting for it, they were overwhelmed. The members discussed making the project either biweekly or monthly, as a lot of the litter will likely be replaced quickly.

"I'm absolutely thrilled about the direction the club is headed in," John Aravnitis, the Global Sustainability club president stated. "We had a lot of kids participating in the clean up and hopefully we'll keep seeing consistent participation."

If anyone is interested in cleaning the local community or joining the Global Sustainability Club, they can attend group meetings Mondays at 8:00pm in CC7.

Midnight Madness coming to WNE

By: Corrine Gamache and Michelle Wiggett

Image: wne.edu

Add face paint, streamers, and balloons to your shopping list because it's time again for Midnight Madness. Functioning as an introduction to the winter sports teams and a pep rally, Midnight Madness is entering its fourteenth year of frenzied, ear-splitting fun. This year the event will be held on Friday, November 4th with the doors to the AHLC opening at 8:30PM with the event running until just after 11PM.

As usual, the Mortar Board Honor Society will be collecting either 5 books or $5 to put towards their Reading is Leading campaign. The coveted Midnight Madness T-shirts designed this year by a member of the campus community will be given out at the end of the night. The Midnight Madness committee asks that you have your ticket upon going to get a T-shirt. This year, the T-shirts will be in designated areas throughout the Alumni Healthful Living Center with areas clearly marked. Make sure to listen for where you can pick up your shirt before leaving.

The main draw of the event is the "Clash of the Classes" which pits students from each year against each other in tug-of-war, a wacky relay race, shootout competition, and much more! Also, be sure to cheer on your class councils as they face off in a dance battle to see who has the best moves. The points are tallied at the end of the night and the class with the most points wins bragging rights until next year. Students are encouraged to dress in their class colors: blue for freshman, yellow for sophomores, red for juniors, and green for seniors. The councils for each class provide various items for their respective year to use to proudly show off their class colors in the stands.

Midnight Madness also presents the varsity winter sports as well the Cheerleaders, Step Squad, Dance Team, and Martial Arts. Each of the groups tries to outdo the others with creative skits and impressive performances showcasing their talents.

Be sure to donate to the Dance team penny wars and the Spirit competition hosted by the Senior Council; both of which can help your class gain extra points for the night. Also be on the look out for wild and crazy publicity as the class councils have been challenged to come up with the most creative publicity for the event. So who is going to be the best class this year? Come to Midnight Madness to find out!

Correction

In the last edition of the Westerner, the article concerning Ally Week mistakenly stated that 150 pledge forms were signed. The correct number was 233. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Correction

In the last edition of the Westerner, the article concerning the Band and Chorus performance mistakenly stated that the concert would start at 5:00pm. The concert actually starts at 3:00pm. We apologize for any inconvenience.

News and Entertainment

RHA brings Give a Damn to campus

By: Katie Mello

Image: Amanda DeCosta

Beds by the gazebo, people standing with signs, scrunched up banners, and handmade fences –what's going on around campus?

On Tuesday, October 25 a group of student leaders stood on Delisio Hall's lawn with signs saying: "no homo," "That's so gay," "Hold my dick," and "hate," all with x's through the words and a large sign saying "not in our community." The intention was to make a statement regarding the usage of such words and expressions. They felt that such words, despite the best intentions, can have a negative impact on individuals and our community as a whole. They wanted to challenge students to think of the impact such words and phrases could have.

The "Give A Damn" campaign is designed to get the people thinking of how words and phrases can impact an individual. I understand that it is highly controversial and brings out a multitude of opinions and debates. But that's the point. It is meant to get people on campus talking about things like impact versus intent, gay rights, and what it means to create a respectful community. It is not designed as an attack on anyone or meant to pass judgment on anyone who uses certain words or phrases I recognize that WNE students have the best intentions. So hey WNE, let's talk. Let's talk about gay rights. Let's talk about equality. Let's talk about respect. Let's talk about our community, and our world. We are the future, so might as well start talking about it.

Student leaders here at WNE have decided to take a stand on a very controversial subject: becoming an ally for the LBGTQ community. The Residence Hall Association's community enrichment chair has taken a national campaign called "Give A Damn" and brought it here to the WNE campus to address certain issues.

The "Give A Damn" campaign was started about a year ago by Cyndi Lauper as a way to educate straight people worldwide on the issues that LBGTQ members face politically, socially, and emotionally. By bringing this campaign to campus, the community enrichment chair hopes to educate WNE students about the harsh realities of the world we live in.

The statistic show that "twenty to forty percent of homeless youth identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, yet only three to five percent of the general youth population do the same." Young women and men our age get kicked out of their own homes for expressing themselves as either gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender because not everyone in our society sees homosexuality as a self-identification. In schools, in our society, "nearly three out of four gay and transgender students are frequently called derogatory names, like 'faggot,' or 'dyke.'"

Homosexual couples who have been together for five or ten years cannot get married in the majority of U.S. states, and if they can, they still do not receive all the "federal and state protections that Americans count on to care for their families, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health" that straight couples receive when they marry. Those marriage rights, given to straight couples, will never be given to gay couples unless gay marriage is accepted and recognized by our nation's laws and not just select states.

According to the "Give A Damn" statistics, the third leading cause of death for young people age ten to twenty-four is suicide. Even more out of that percentage of young adults, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth "are still nearly four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers." More than two out of five members of the LBGTQ community think about suicide often, and one in three have attempted it.

Ideally, the perfect community would be open, non-judgmental, and equally accepting of all genders, sexual orientation, and race. The perfect community would respect each other through their words and their actions. While the perfect "Utopian" community is nearly impossible to come by, RHA can always work towards bettering what we have. Out of hope and open-mindedness, RHA is striving to encourage others to show their respect by thinking of the impact their words and actions have on others.

Footloose: A movie remake done right

By: Hannah Berling

The year was 1984 when twenty-six year old Kevin Bacon broke onto the big screen portraying a Converse wearing, yellow Volkswagen driving, city boy, forced to move in with his aunt and uncle in a town where public dancing is prohibited by law.

1984 was also the year a boy by the name of Kenny Wormald was born.

Now the year is 2011, and a twenty-seven year old Wormald is wearing those same Converse sneakers and driving that same yellow Volkswagen. He is the modern day Ren McCormick in the remake of the classic Footloose.

Remaking iconic movies is no easy task, but the creators of Footloose got it right. Just as in the original film, the central character, Ren McCormick (Wormald), gets a culture shock when he moves from the city to a rural country town and discovers that public dancing and loud music are prohibited by law. He is told that these laws were put in place by the town's preacher (Dennis Quaid), whose son died in a drunken driving accident. McCormick sets out to change the laws, enlisting the help of the preacher's daughter Ariel (Julianne Hough) and other high school students.

Much of the dialogue heard in the remake remains true to the original 1984 script and the music used in the film include many of the iconic songs heard in the original. Various props and settings in the film are also pulled right from the 1984 hit, including the Volkswagen, the honky-tonk bar, and the wardrobe worn by Ariel and Ren in the final scene.

With the exception of Dennis Quaid and Andie McDowell, the cast of the remake are all relatively new actors, many of which have dancing backgrounds. Ariel is portrayed by Julianne Hough (Dancing with the Stars and Burlseque) whose acting style is being compared by numerous critics to that of Jennifer Anniston. The film also starred newcomer Kenny Wormald in his first major acting role, and he proves to be a convincing actor as well as a seasoned dancer. Other cast members include Miles Teller, who has the character of Willard spot on with 1984 version played by the late Christopher Penn, and Patrick John Flueger as bad boy Chuck Cranston.

While modernizing a movie can be met with criticism, Footloose was able to put a modern spin on an 80's classic while still holding very true to the original script. The film even met the approval of the original Ren McCormick, Kevin Bacon, who took to his twitter typing, "F-Loose! Just saw it. Congrats to Craig, Kenny, Julianne, Dennis, Andie, Miles, and the rest of the cast. U guys rocked it!"

So, no worries to those of you loyal to the original 1984 classic, the 2011 version will not disappoint. You will be dancing in your seat and smiling over just how accurate the dialogue and scenes are to the original.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hannah's TV Talk

By: Hannah Berling

Even though Halloween has now passed, I felt it would still be appropriate to use this issue's TV Talk to discuss two Halloween related shows.

No Halloween season would be complete without ghosts, so we are delving into the world of reality television to look at two popular shows that put ghosts and paranormal research at the forefront.

First we turn to the SyFy network to investigate *Ghost Hunters,* which follows the paranormal research team TAPS. Based out of Warwick, RI. The show focuses on team leaders Jason Hawes and Grant Wilson who, along with tech. specialist Steve Gonzalez and a team of investigators travel to various locations throughout the U.S. to explore claims of paranormal activity.

The *Ghost Hunters* team usually spends their hour long time slot in two locations (half an hour devoted to each). The TAPS team uses a very scientific approach, and always enters their locations as skeptics ready to debunk as much as possible.

In the early seasons of the show, which began in 2004, the team investigated many residential homes where they would often attribute the fears of their clients to faulty wiring, creaky floors, and simple drafts in the house. The team did have encounters with experiences they could not explain, along with mysterious voices captured on voice recorders to back up the reports from some clients.

Now in the latest seasons, the team has taken to more large scale locations and notable haunts. Some of the best evidence caught by the team included an unexplainable apparition in a cell block of Philadelphia's Eastern State Penitentiary and one of their sound men being pushed to the ground by an unknown force at an armory.

The show also plays host to the six hour live ghost hunt that is televised every Halloween (this year it took place at Pennhurst State School and Hospital in Spring City, PA). The SyFy hit has also prompted its spin-off shows *Ghost Hunters International and Ghost Hunters Academy.*

In 2007, the SyFy channel also played host to a special documentary about another group of paranormal investigators. The documentary was entitled *Ghost Adventures,* and the investigation team it featured landed their own reality show by the same name on the Travel Channel in 2008.

Ghost Adventures follows team leader Zak Bagans as he and his two

Images: Sci-Fi Channel and Travel Cannel

fellow investigators Nick Groff and Aaron Goodwin as they go on their own quest around the country to seek out ghosts.

In relation to its competition on SyFy, *Ghost Adventures* offers much more of an entertainment value than the TAPS team provides. The team only hits on one location in most episodes, spending about twenty five minutes learning the history of the location and the other thirty-five minutes investigating. Bagans' team also reveals their evidence as it happens on screen, unlike TAPS who sit down with clients after the investigation to reveal the evidence.

Ghost Adventures brings with it many more laughs as the team has very exaggerated reactions at times during the investigation. We also see Goodwin, who shows the most visible fear, forced into the scariest rooms and locations while his teammates laugh.

While Bagans' team does use a lot of scientific equipment while investigating, they are not as quick to debunk experiences as the TAPS team is. They enter a location with more of a mind set of "this place is haunted" rather than "what are the other possible explanations." The other major difference in the two shows is that the *Ghost Adventures* team does all of their filming during their investigations, while the *Ghost Hunters* crew brings a camera crew in to investigate with them.

Memorable evidence recorded on *Ghost Adventures* has included a brick flying across the room at the Goldfield Hotel in Nevada. In the original documentary, there is a shadow of a hand appearing next to Bagans' shadow on the wall in an abandoned insane asylum in New Jersey, and Bagans' himself is being scratched and nearly possessed at Bobby Mackey's Music World in Kentucky.

Other than providing an entertaining hour of television to break from studying, these two shows could prove useful to college students. Students of either science or psychology could look at these shows and learn from the research techniques, equipment used, and reactions to activity found to build on their studies.

Even though the Halloween season has wound down, you can still indulge in your fair share of scares and ghosts. *Ghost Hunters* airs Wednesdays at 9:00pm on SyFy and *Ghost Adventures* airs Friday nights at 9:00pm on The Travel Channel.

Images: Stephanie Hart

These images where taken (from left: Campus Center, Tennis Court, and Evergreen) at Western New England University on October 30, 2011. This unexpected snowstorm caused immense damage across campus and the North East. Some academic buildings and residence halls on campus, including Southwood, Evergreen, Gateway, and The Center for Sciences and Pharmacy were left without power. Due to the unsafe condition caused by the storm, WNE cancelled classes from Tuesday November 1st to Friday November 4th, classes will resume on Monday November 7th.

Features

WNE's Of the Month Awards

By: Amanda DeCosta

It's almost November first and you all know what that means! It's time to get those Of The Month (OTM) submissions in. You can write about anything on campus – an enthusiastic professor, an out-of-the-box program, an advisor, a student in your Residence Hall, even another club or organization. OTMs are due on November 1st by 5pm and to submit one is easy.

First, you can go to the OTM Database at www.otms.nrhh.org where you will find two links in the left hand corner – General Category and Program Category. If you went to or organized a fantastic program, click the second link. If you want to recognize a particular person or group of people, click the first link. Then choose Western New England University from the drop down menu. On the form, select what you are nominating for and fill out the corresponding information. Please make sure that you put your e-mail and the e-mail of the person you are nominating. Last but not least, click submit.

OTMs are part of a national competition between Colleges and Universities across the country. If your OTM is selected to represent Western New England University, then he, she, or they compete against other institutions in our New England and New York region. If your OTM wins regionally, he, she, or they will compete with institutions across the entire country.

For the Month of September, the following Campus Winning OTMs won for our region and is moving on to the National level: Community: Evergreen RA Staff; Educational Program: Cash Cab; Student: Nicole Gakenheimer

Congratulations to those regionally winning recipients. If you have any questions about how to submit OTMs, tips on writing a winning OTM, or any questions about NRHH, please send the Maureen Keizer Chapter an email at keizerNRHH@gmail.com. Until the next issue – Happy Writing!

Beer Review: Ten Penny Ale Brewing Company

By: Tom LeClair and Barney Davis

After a much awaited delay, The Westerner is bringing back the beer review. The co-authors this year are Barney Davis and Tom LeClair. Barney is a senior history major from Portland Connecticut. Tom is a senior Psychology major from Tyngsboro Massachusetts. These two beer connoisseur's are both of age and comply with university rules while choosing to consume alcohol. Though there are a variety of main stream choices when selecting the nectar of the gods, we will be reviewing local micro brews to spread the word about the great beers that are made in our own backyard (New England and New York).

This week, we chose to review the Ten Penny ale by the Burnside brewing company. Burnsides brewing company is a stone's throw away in East Hartford, CT. The story behind the name comes from the master brew and owner's grandfather who used to say "You can get a good beer for a nickel, but a really good beer will cost you ten pennies!" It was voted Hartford's best microbrew for 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2009. The ten penny ale is a mellow take on traditional Scottish style ale. The Ten Penny has a rich copper hued with a nice foamy head (when poured correctly), with an aroma that betrays the malty flavor of the beer before the first taste. This is a great year round ale that is thoroughly enjoyable while still on the milder side of the pallet. With a mild citrus taste and no bitterness, this beer lends itself to all types of beer drinkers. Overall, it's a great beer to sit down and enjoy with family, friends, and loved ones, responsibly of course.

Note: All students imbibing alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

Old Burnside's "Ten Penny ale" can be found all over New England and New York. So check with your local package store to see if it's available in your home town. It come in ½ gallon "growler" jugs, as well as on draught in many bars and pubs. Specific to this micro brewery, Old Burnside's offers the Ten Penny and their "Dirty Penny" (their take on a black and tan), also sold in "wee kegs" that hold 2.5 gallons of deliciousness.

Good Vibrations: Music Review

By: Cara Federici

"Ain't nothing is as sweet as the sound of a crowd" belts Stephen Kellogg, lead singer of local Western Mass band Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers, on October 15th at the Iron Horse in Northampton, MA. With humble beginnings, powerfully sweet words, and the hearts of a lion, Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers have been creating a memorable name in the music industry for the past decade.

Hailing from Amherst, MA and all UMASS Amherst Alumni, band members Stephen "Skunk" Kellogg, Kit "Goose" Karlson, Sam "Steamer" Getz, and Brian "Boots" Factor merge their individual talents to create an illustrious sound. Seven albums later, the recently released "Gift Horse" is essentially what the name entitles: a gift. The Sixers' sound is unforgettable. With tracks such as "Gravity", "Roots and Wings", and personal favorites "1993", "Watch You Grow", and "Noelle, Noelle", the Sixers reveal embracing tones that are relatable to any listener upon pressing play.

The 2011 "Boys Only [and Girls] Tour" stop at the Iron Horse with openers, Jon McLaughlin and Amy Lennard, was the fourth time that I have seen the Sixers (also known as Sk6ers to fans) in Northampton, MA. After being a fan for about five years, I can honestly say that every show brings a new admiration for the gentlemen in the band, and nothing is as lovely as seeing artists play in their hometown. The endless smiles, the ability to play for family and friends who can't travel, and the comfort of being home is displayed on every expression

Image: Cara Federici

throughout the evening. A show from the Sixers never fails to supply any listener with goose-bump induced memories.

One of the most refreshing elements of the Sixers is their ability to connect with a crowd. With a fan-club package titled "Sixertown", fans can pay a fee that is worth every happy penny. Besides a T-shirt, fan club laminate, exclusive music and video released to members only, the most incredible piece of the package is the private 2-song acoustic performance exclusively offered to Sixertown members before the band's set. If playing acoustically, singing ingenious words one-on-one does not show the dedication of a band to their fans, then what does? How about creating a field-day event that took place June 3rd-5th of 2011, where 100 tickets were made available to fans who, upon retrieval of ticket, not only could enjoy two shows performed by the Sixers, but also spend the weekend with the band, having a BBQ, and playing games while enjoying the beautiful outdoors.

It is refreshing to be reminded by artists that they wholeheartedly appreciate every moment of life that allows them to stand before a crowd of family, friends, and fans, and sing straight from the heart. On the track "My Favorite Place" off of *Gift Horse*, Kellogg sings, "This is my favorite place, my worry slips away. It's time I was getting back home, where the sound is the song in my heart. The places I go, I always know, home is wherever you are," exemplifies that the gentlemen deserve all the admiration they get. The Sixer's lyrics are honest truths that leave a personal connection reminiscent of home with every melodious memory sung and string plucked.

FEATURES

Fear: A Creative Piece

By: Nick Palmer

Fear. It is the walk down a dark and silent corridor, every resonant sound and movement amplified by the excruciating unknown. It is throwing yourself into the briar patch of the human psyche, its thorns ensnaring and consuming you. It is the long agonizing descent into the crushing black depths of the ocean, one that delights in your desperate endeavor to swim upwards, but no matter how hard you try, your efforts are in vain. Fear.

The concept of fear finds itself in a rather fitting residence around this time of year, during a holiday that is solely based off of fear. It is part of our growth as people to know Fear. She is a cruel mistress that prays on the darkness, the insecurities dwelling within our own minds, and relishes in their strength to bend our very perceptions. However, as we have progressed as a race, we have learned ways to best the grasp of Fear. We have discovered ways to administer Fear in a safe, controlled environment, as if it were medicine. Horror movies, books, video games, even just walking in the woods at night with your friends in search of Melonheads* are all ways we immunize ourselves to Fear. This isn't achieved by eradicating her, nary by ignoring her, but by embracing her. By appreciating her power and its ability, we no longer see it as some intangible force over which we have no control. We harness the ecstasy and stimulation we get and ride it like a wave. She is unrelenting and cruel. She does not discriminate between, nor foster a bias towards anyone. She grows more powerful every day. But we have a sick, morbid addiction to her in the movies we see, the books we read, and the lives we live. Fear.

We as a society see Fear in different ways throughout our lives. It can brush up against your spine at the thought of a test within the hour, or it can enmesh within and penetrate your very muscle tissue when fleeing from a murderer. Fear, quite simply, is knowledge of the unknown. It is acknowledging that there is nothing you can absolutely know about the future, whether it is ten seconds or ten years in front of you. Despite all the hallmark sentiment proverbs and quotes to justify Fear, it is one dark knight that cannot be championed. This is not to say that Fear is powerful beyond comprehension and that we should submit to misery. Not at all. Fear cannot be conquered in the same respect that Love cannot be conquered. In the same respect that Happiness cannot be conquered. Not completely. And if you invest even further thought, you'll find that Fear, Love, and Happiness are all really the same thing: unknown. These feelings are indomitable because they are natural. They are big, powerful, overwhelming mysteries that will never go away. To deny Fear is to reject the most primordial human instinct. Fear is the biggest part of what we are: human. Fear is the reason we survive. We have earned the right to endure through Fear, for she has motivated every movement, every progression we have had as a species since our humble beginnings. That is why doing things like turning off the lights in the basement and staying down there for a little while is a practical and ultimately smart way of treating Fear. By surrounding yourself with it.

When you enter the theater, and sit down to see some garden variety gore, Fear becomes a drug. It is dangerous and thrilling, and you can feel it shoot up and down your spine, soaking every tissue in your body. Whenever you find yourself watching the unsuspecting college student creep down a dark hallway, or into a graveyard, or barn, or wherever else Fear lurks, it builds a tension that suffocates us. When you turn out the lights, when you look around your room at night, searching the dark silent abyss, when you stroll in the midnight streets. When you are in the presence of Fear, you anticipate the surreal. You expect the strange. You know the unknown.

*Melonheads are an urban legend known commonly around Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Images: Leighann Camarero

We hope everyone had a fun and safe Halloween weekend!

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

Brr! Now that it's starting to get chilly out, here are some tips to prepare for the rest of autumn, and the looming winter ahead...

1) Winterize your vehicle by checking your air filter and fluid levels, checking tires for tread wear and proper inflation, and checking the condition of your windshield wipers.

2) It may seem nice to come back from outside tu a toasty warm room, but try to keep your room or apartment at a reasonable temperature. Yuu'll conserve energy, and it won't make returning to the bitter cold as daunting.

3) Clean out your closets and give or sell used items to someone who needs them to reduce the cost to buy "new," and save landfill space. This is an especially good time of year to donate to those less fortunate.

Egg Recipes

By: Andrea Melone

I've always been a fan of eggs. There's so much you can do with eggs, and so many ways to spruce up your eggs! Plain eggs are fine and dandy, but for something different try:

Grampy's Scrambled Eggs; add: Italian Seasoning

Whenever I think of staying with my dad's parents as a child, I distinctly remember these simple but delicious eggs. The seasoning just adds a wonderful and indescribable flavor. Plus, Italian Seasoning is cheap and can be used for all sort of other foods (ever have a bagel or English muffin pizza? It's PERFECT to sprinkle on top!)

Claire's Mom's Eggs; scrambled; add: cream cheese

This is something I learned from my friend, which she learned from her mother. It's really tasty and easy to add cream cheese to the scrambled eggs. Since there are different types of cream cheese, you can experiment with different flavors and consistencies. It really gives the eggs an extra flavor, and makes them creamier.

Spit in the Eye; fried; cook egg in bread

I have no idea why my family calls it this. Most people know it as "Egg in the Nest." My family is just weird. Basically, you cut a hole in the center of a piece of bread, then fry it in a pan like you would an egg - with an egg in the center hole that you made. If desired, you can put a slice of cheese on top. Plus, then you can have a tiny piece of toast!

Eggs Marshall; scrambled; add: Italian dressing

Ok, I'll admit that I learned this from a TV show (How I Met Your Mother). But they're seriously delicious! The dressing tastes completely different in the eggs, and it's really excellent. It may sound strange, but if you're at all curious, just trust me.

Just for fun... GREEN EGGS AND HAM!

Why not enjoy reminiscing on your childhood? It's as easy as adding green food coloring! For easy scrambled eggs (not accurate to the story but simple), add the dye before cooking. For fried eggs, it's best to separate the yoke from the whites, and then it's up to you which part you'd like to dye, because both can work. For the ham steak, you just have to put some food coloring on top and spread it around with a spoon, and you can grill, bake, or fry the ham.

Opinion

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Anti Occupy Wallstreet

By: Kyle Wolf

The Occupy Wall-Street protests have been gaining much momentum in the last few weeks and their influence has spread throughout the nation. From Wall Street to Washington, to even here in Springfield Massachusetts, protesters have come out of nowhere shouting and screaming about their anger and disapproval of their current economic state. Their message ranges from "Human Need, Not Corporate Greed" to "We are the 99%" to "Wall Street Jews."

Many other protesters are touting messages about how we need to end the war and how we need to bring soldiers home. Still others are staying that we need to lower the cost of the upper level education because students are locked into hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt after they graduate with no guarantee of a job that will help them pay their debt back. Some say that CEOs of large corporations should be given minimum wage and work at an hourly rate. Some want to end the cruel treatment of animals. Some want to end the globalization of jobs and the market. Others want to stop the apparent blocking of green energies. Others are scared of government controlled media. Still others are protesting, just for the sake of protesting.

Talk about a long list of grievances. So, with these grievances in mind, let's look and see who are the people of Occupy Wall Street and Occupy (insert local city name here).

They are the self proclaimed 99% who feel they have been cheated by the American Capitalist system. Many are jobless. Some have or are in the process of losing their house. Many are college students who don't have money to repay their college loans. Some are simply confused. And still others are angry that they are not getting a fair share of the nations wealth and blame wall street for selling them out.

Sounds like a socialist movement to me. The idea is simple; take money away from big business and redistribute it to the working/middle class. Is this right? Is this what we're supposed to do in America?

According to the Occupy Wall Street protesters, yes. For example, many people blame Wall Street for losing their houses because of the sub-prime mortgages that they took out. Perhaps banks didn't act as ethically as many of us would have liked them to, but is it their fault that they offered a service to many Americans, and those Americans didn't take the time to understand what they were signing and how much it truly would cost them? It's simple financial planning; if you make $80,000 a year, you simply cannot afford a $250,000 house, so don't take out a mortgage that you can't afford! Personal responsibility.

Another grivence: College Education Cost too much. This is definitely a Wall Street problem right? Some people, even here at WNE have said that they will have mountains of loans after college. The same principle applies: personal responsibility. Nobody forces students to go to schools that cost $40,000/year. Community Colleges and State schools are increasingly becoming a more popular option as they clime upward in the quality of their education. Also, students who are concerned with their looming debt have forgotten something: scholarships. There are thousands of private scholarships that can be found online and can be attained for simply filling out an application or writing an essay. Personally, I have managed to keep my debt in control by living off campus in an shared apartment, applying for scholarships, and applying for grants and low and no interest loans. In fact, after my 4 years at WNE, I will have less than $15,000 worth of debt. So students, get off your butt and take control of your debt, instead of expecting someone to hand you education: it's a privilege, not a given.

Another Grievance: I can't find a Job. It is true, many jobs have been shipped overseas where labor is much cheaper. However, I challenge you to find someone who will be willing to spend more on everyday products simply because they are made in America. Yes, some people will. But if your strapped for cash, can you justify spending more money on products that you use every day? We like low prices, and hoards of us go to Wal-Mart and clip coupons because we want to save a dollar here and a dollar there.

Secondly, America is a post-industrial nation. The market has decided that we do not have a demand for the jobs like auto manufacturing and many large production plants because of things like mandated health care that make employment cost too much for employers. If there is no economic demand for a good/ service, then the market will weed it out or will transfer it somewhere else.

Third, there are jobs available, you just need to search for them and swallow your pride. Sitting on a sidewalk by Wall Street does not show that you're very motivated to find a job. No one is going to say, "here you go, here's a job." Take the initiative and send out your resume. Go on interviews. Send out more applications. Like the saying says, "when the going gets tough, the tough gets going." This should sound familiar...personal responsibility.

Grievance: They are cheated by the Capitalist system. The American Capitalist system is viewed by these protesters as something that is cheating them out of their fair share. Unfortunately, that's not how we work. In America, you are expected to place your best foot forward, and rise to the occasion. Those who want to achieve will, and those who lack the motivation to achieve won't. It's a simple concept. You have the opportunity to succeed. While it's true that not everyone has the same resources, those who have the drive will find a way to persevere. However, it is not the government's role to hand you success, it is a personal decision.

The more people look for government handouts, the more America creeps to socialism. America is not socialist. We look to be the best that we can be, were competitive and we strive for excellence. Socialism is simply the wrong answer.

Grievance: Corporate Greed. These corporate executives and bankers have it written in their contract that they are to receive their high salary and their high bonuses and perks despite the economic conditions of the nation.

It is necessary for a business's survival to attract the best and brightest people for a company's head or CEO. Companies must offer high salary packages if they want to remain competitive in the working world. That is simply how the business works. The best companies have the best leaders, and pay the best prices to attract these CEOs. Simple economics.

So what do Occupy Wall Street protesters want? Handouts? An easy way out? Guess what, it's up to you to make it for yourself. Pick yourself up, stop living off the government (which, by the way means you're living off of the people who are working), and take some personal responsibility. It's truly an easy and simple concept that is thrown away by some Americans who don't want to take responsibility. Protest all you want, but if you are simply complaining and not taking person action to better your life situation, then whose fault is that?

IF YOU HAVE AN OPPOSING OPINION OR WOULD LIKE YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD PLEASE SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THEWESTERNERSN@YAHOO.COM OR JOIN ONE OF OUR MEETINGS HELD TUESDAYS AT 7P.M IN RIVERS 105.

Sports

Football Team Clinches First Boyd Division Championship in School History

By: Anthony Camardi

Images: Anthony Camardi

On Saturday October 29 the Western New England University Golden Bears faced off against the undefeated Endicott College Gulls in front of a crowd of 1114 at Golden Bear Stadium. This was a Boyd Division match up that would decide the winner of the division and who would play in the New England Football Conference championship game against the Bogan Division champion. Going into this game both Western New England and Endicott had identical 5-0 records in Boyd Division play. Overall, Endicott had 8-0 and Western New England was 7-1. One key factor in this game was not any of the players from either team, but the weather.

By the start of the game a steady snow began to fall making for a slippery playing surface. The weather had an immediate impact as on the Golden Bear's first drive of the game, center Andrew McManus snapped the ball straight over the punter John Krafick's head and into the end zone where all Krafick could do was pick up the football and run out the back of the end zone for a safety a minute and thirty seconds into the game. The only other scoring in the first quarter came on Western New England's second possession when senior quarterback Bryce Brown connected on a 27 yard touchdown pass down the middle of the field to sophomore tight end Dan LaNoir making the score 6 to 2 Golden Bears as freshman kicker Nick Fox-Edele missed the extra point. The rest of this game would proceed to be a back and forth dog fight that could be considered to be named the "ice bowl" as snow would continue to fall throughout the afternoon blanketing Golden Bear Stadium.

The second quarter scoring began about a third of the way through as Endicott quarterback Phil Konopka, who had a career day passing, led a 2 play 41 yard drive completing a 40 yard pass to wide receiver Mike Murphy, and finishing the drive off with a 1 yard touchdown run. Later in the quarter Western New England senior running back J.J. Jachym burst through the middle of Endicott's defense with a 9 yard touchdown run of his own. Failing to convert the two point conversion had the Golden Bears up by 3 with two minutes and forty two seconds left in the first half of play. Endicott would start their next drive with the same amount of time on their own forty yard line. Konopka would lead the Gulls in their no huddle offense on an impressive seven play sixty yard drive ending in a nine yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Mike Fimiani with forty nine seconds left in the half. With the big momentum shift the Golden Bears were looking at a four point deficit and Endicott receiving the ball coming out of halftime. The momentum would quickly shift back in favor of Western New England when junior Mike Graham returned the ensuing kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown to get that three point lead back going into halftime.

During halftime and throughout the second half of play all hands were on deck shoveling the lines on the field so the players and officials could see the sidelines and yard markers. During the second half of play the two teams would trade touchdowns three times beginning with a thirty yard touchdown run by Western New England's freshman running back Kevin Cook with eight minutes and forty one seconds remaining in the third quarter. The Golden Bears would have this ten point lead until four seconds left in the third quarter when Endicott's running back Mike Lane scored on a seven yard touchdown run. Much like the end of the first half Mike Graham would answer with his second kickoff return for a touchdown on the next play. This was Graham's fourth kickoff return for a touchdown on the season, all at home. This kickoff was an 83 yard return and gave Western New England their ten point lead back going into the fourth quarter.

Endicott came back on their first drive of the fourth quarter to score on another Phil Konopka twenty yard touchdown pass to Ryan Carino. Western New England would answer on the next drive after Graham nearly returned a third kickoff for touchdown. This score was a 39 yard touchdown pass from Bryce Brown to freshman wide receiver Andrew Walz. The final score of the game came from Endicott with eight minutes and six seconds remaining in the game when Phil Konopka threw his third and final touchdown pass of the game on a nineteen yard strike, his second of the game to Ryan Carino. As snow continued to fall the final whistle blew to end this titanic matchup with the Golden Bears on top by a score of 40 to 37, clinching the New England Football Conference Boyd Division and solidifying Western New England's first ever conference championship game appearance.

Top performers for this game were, for Endicott, Mike Lane with 29 rushes for 133 yards, Phil Konopka who went 38 for 53 for 407 yards, 3 touchdowns, and 2 interceptions, Mike Fimiani who had 12 receptions for 110 yards and a touchdown, Mike Murphy who had 6 receptions for 131 yards, and Ryan Carino who had 2 touchdowns receiving. For Western New England, Kevin Cook had 21 rushes for 80 yards and a touchdown, J.J. Jachym who had a rushing touchdown, Bryce Brown who went 9 for 17 for 144 yards and 2 touchdowns, Andrew Walz who had 3 receptions for 82 yards and a touchdown, Dan LaNoir who had one receiving touchdown, and Mike Graham who returned four kickoffs for 229 yards and 2 touchdowns. Defensively, Endicott's Kevin Eagan had 11 tackles, 5 of which were for a loss, and Western New England's Phil Tsopanides had 10 tackles. James Georges also added 2.5 sacks adding to his team and league lead. This capped off one of the most memorable and historic games and senior days in Western New England history. The Golden Bears will end their regular season at UMass- Dartmouth on November 5th at 12p.m.

Western New England will also be hosting the New England Football Conference Championship game on Novemeber 12th against Framingham State, champion of the Bogan Division.

To add to the great success for the football team this week, junior Mike Graham has received two separate accolades for his superb performance this last Saturday against Endicott. According to the head of athletic communications at Western New England, Ken Cerino, Graham received the award for New England Football Conference special teams player of the week. He has also received the week 9 Golden Helmet Award given out to the most outstanding player in New England college football for the week, awarded by the New England Football Writers' Gridiron Club of Greater Boston. Graham is the second player from Western New England to receive the Golden Helmet Award this season. Quarterback Bryce Brown has also received the award for his performance back on week 1 against Norwich.

If you are interested in WNE sports and would like to contribute to the Westerner please contact us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com or join us at one of our meetings held Tuesdays at 7 PM in Rivers 105

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Comments?
Suggestions?
Angry letters?

Please e-mail:
thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Students attend conference to enhance programming

By: Hannah Berling

Image: Hannah Berling

A group of nine Western New England students and three advisors spent three days at the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) Northeast conference in Hartford November 17 through 19 to learn more about programming and view potential acts to bring to campus.

The Northeast conference was established in 1969 and was created with the purposes of uniting schools to share ideas for programs and plan similar programs around each other. This idea is still prominently shown at the conference through a process called "block-booking" in which schools in the same area can book the same act in the same week and save money for their school.

The WNE delegation was comprised of seven members of the Campus Activities Board, one senate representative, the Residence Hall Association programming chair, and a U&ME representative. The group spent three days at the conference in educational session workshops, getting to preview acts from numerous types of performers, and mingling with agents and artists alike.

"NACA was an incredibly amazing experience; I'm so grateful I was a part of it! It was amazing to connect with the other delegates, learn so many tips in the educational sessions, and meet with so many performers and agents," Maddie Boushie, the Senate Representative said.

The theme of this year's conference was "The Original Social Network" and it was reflected in numerous ways. Delegations were encouraged to Tweet throughout the conference - to the hash tag #NACAne - and artists also pushed students to follow their Twitter accounts. Evaluations on educational sessions were done online by scanning a

Continued on page 2

WNE to change to Kodiak

By: Sarah Wiles

For many years, Western New England University has worked with the website Manhattan, which was developed on campus, and has been incorporated not only in most WNE classes, but in schools from the surrounding Springfield area. This technology, developed over ten years ago, is highly out-of-date, and after taking a close look at many different options, the Office of Information Technology has chosen Desire2learn as its new online base. For the University's purposes, it will be named Kodiak.

Student leaders have the opportunity to train with Kodiak before the rest of the campus uses it, starting next week. Staff, too, has early access to Kodiak to become accustomed to it. After receiving both student and faculty feedback, OIT will implement Kodiak in all classes, starting next fall.

Many issues have come up in making this change, everything from accessibility to transferring data from Manhattan to Kodiak. Manhattan will remain accessible, but starting next fall, no more information can be added to it. Students and faculty may retrieve items, but they will not be able to post anything.

In transitioning to Kodiak, the University will also change over to a new email system, called Microsoft Exchange. It, too, is based online, and has many more benefits than the current email system. Kodiak is based off of this technology, meaning emails can directly link up with Kodiak accounts—a feature which many professors will appreciate.

Students celebrate holidays

By: Andrea Melone

This year's annual Festival of Lights program will be held on December 1 at 5:00 pm in Rivers Arena.

Student Senate, Campus Ministries, United and Mutually Equal, and Campus Chorus collaborated to bring this event to campus. The chairperson of the event this year is sophomore Student Senate representative, Sarah Wiles. "This event is a good way to open the holiday season," Wiles, also Campus Chorus Treasurer, stated enthusiastically.

Much like previous years, the event includes representation of various cultures and religions with traditional candle lighting ceremonies and food. Western New England University students will share antidotes about their experiences growing up with different religions.

"By attending, you're honoring different religious and cultural traditions," Wiles explained. "Not only are you able to learn a lot about the different traditions by hearing students' stories and watching the ceremonial candle lightings, but you can get a taste of the different cultures with the foods."

Last year's chair, Christopher Kelley, is optimistic about Wiles' work thus far, as she is taking what he did last year and improving on it.

"I am excited with the work Sarah is doing; she is taking it to a new level, and I am exited to see the outcome the night of," Kelley stated.

Come support the students' efforts as well as the different cultures and religions at this year's Festival of Lights program..

News

NACA confrence cont. from first page.

QR Code onto your smartphone, and the WNE delegation kept a blog of their experiences.

The main focus of the NACA conference is to find programming ideas for your campus. There are multiple "showcases" throughout the conference in which selected musicians, comedians, magicians, speakers, and variety acts are given fifteen minutes to present to those in attendance what they could bring to your college campus. From there the conferences has "marketplaces" in which each talent agency has a booth where you can talk to agents and artists to find out more about their act, or if the act did not showcase you can listen to their music or see a simple magic trick. There is also the chance to contract acts on-site at the conference, which can lead to discounts in the booking price of an act.

WNE also partook in the conference's "school swap" competition. In this competition, schools build tables focused on the NACA theme and have representatives at those tables, partaking in a very fast paced swapping of their college's apparel or promo items amongst other schools.

Overall, the trip to the NACA Northeast conference was successful for the WNE delegation. The group returned with many acts to share with their respective organizations, and new knowledge on leadership and programming. More importantly, they returned with new friends and a strong sense of unity.

"NACA was an eye-opening experience for me. It opened up a world of possibilities of being a leader, and changing the world, that I didn't even know existed. I am so grateful for the opportunity that I had and I plan to use all that I learned, and saw to help shape and guide others," stated sophomore and new CAB secretary Alyssa Brunski.

To learn more about the WNE delegation's trip to NACA you can read their blog by visiting http://wneprogrammers.wordpress.com/.

GBTV named September Club of the Month

By: Sarah Wiles and Hannah Berling

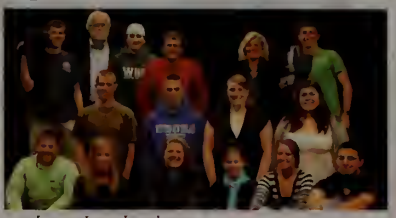

Image: Jason Jansak

Every month, Student Senate votes on one of WNE's clubs that will be named Club of the Month. Once chosen, members of that club are invited into a Student Senate meeting and formally presented with a certificate of their achievements.

For September, Student Senate was proud to present the Club of the Month award to Golden Bear Television. They have worked very hard this semester, developing a new program, providing content, coping with technological issues, and working with limited funding.

Chris Morgan, GBTV's executive producer, stated, "I was surprised and proud of our organization's accomplishments."

Golden Bear Television has been working hard, not just in September, but all semester. During the production of their first news show of the semester, members of the club were able to gain access to the Extreme Makeover Home Edition build site to film what was taking place; they even got the chance to interview one of the show's designers. The club has also been out filming numerous sporting events throughout the fall season, including the conference championship football game, to capture the events for more people to be able to see. With new technology that they have acquired, GBTV has been able to produce more in-depth shoots of improve shows along with executing a three camera, multi-angle shoot at Midnight Madness.

The clubs largest project of the semester has come in the form of their original talent competition, *The Golden Voice*. The show featured Western New England students competing to see who was the campus' best singer and the members of GBTV put all they had into the show's production. The show started with original in-studio try-outs, followed by in-depth studio interviews with contestants along with having them perform a song for the show. The show culminated with a multi-camera shoot at the Late Night finale on Friday, November 18th where a winner was crowned, which drew a large crowd.

To view productions created by Golden Bear Television tune into channel 8.2 or view their Blip TV page at goldenbeartv.blip.tv.

Congratulations to Golden Bear Television.

WNE students travel to New York City

By: Chantel Branco

On Sunday, November 20, 2011, Western New England students traveled to New York City for the day where they toured the United Nations, visited the 9/11 Memorial, and spent some free time on their own in the city. Due to transportation issues, the CAB Broadway trip, usually scheduled for the fall semester, was postponed until the spring, allowing for this trip to take place.

The New York trip was co-sponsored by the Campus Activates Board's travel committee, University Democrats, and the Model U.N. The University Democrats inspired the idea for the New York trip, then reached out to CAB travel chair, Devin Houde, in hopes that he would be able to collaborate with them. As they were going to tour the United Nations, the Model U.N. was also asked to take part in the planning.

"The trip went very well, we got a lot of great feedback and everyone appreciated the visits to the U.N. and the 9/11 memorial" said Christopher Kelley, University Democrats president.

The morning started off with the tour of the United Nations building, where students learned about the purpose and goals of the U.N. On the tour, students were able to go in and see various meeting rooms, where the representatives from each of the countries come together to make decisions on peace, world equality, and much more.

Throughout the building there were various exhibits displayed, depicting

Image: Chantel Branco

certain focuses of the United Nations such as land mine removal; bringing education to places in the world where there is very little, known as "school in a box"; decreasing the number of people who are infected by malaria, peace, equality, global sustainability; and much more. The exhibits are a combination of visual representation such as artifacts found from around the world, motivational posters, influential quotes, pictures, and displays of equipment, accompanied by the audio information for each individual exhibit.

"The trip was great; I was really excited when I heard about it, and it was better than I expected. The United Nations was amazing, definitely my favorite part," said Christine Rathbun, a student on the trip.

The United Nations tour was followed by a trip to the 9/11 Memorial, where students were able to walk around freely, and experience the tragedy that impacted our country ten years ago.

"I visited Ground Zero a few years ago, but the memorial pools weren't built yet; it was incredible to see them fully functional on this trip. We were heart broken to read the engraved names of all the lives taken, but I think the memorial is a beautiful way to remember," said student Cara Federici.

After visitng the 9/11 Memorial, students had time to go off on their own in the city to get dinner and explore. The trip provided WNE students with an educational and historical perspective of New York City. For more information about the United Nations and 9/11 Memorial please visit http://www.un.org/en/ or http://www.911memorial.org/.

ENTERTAINMENT

WNE Students Perform in Fall Showcase concert

By: Alexandra Carter

Image: Alex Carter

On Sunday, November 20, the University Campus Chorus, University Singers, and Concert Band performed in their annual Fall Showcase Concert in the Sleith Hall auditorium.

Each group performed a collection of pieces. The Director of Choirs, Dr. Ellen Gilson Voth, chose songs that called attention to the importance of music to people of all cultures.

Dr. Voth stated in the program notes that "we also embrace a wider community where, no matter our spoken language, background, or aspirations, music is a common thread in our human experience."

The University Campus Chorus sang "Let there be Light", "Hine Ma Tov", "Living in a Holy City", "If I Can Help Somebody", and "Jenga Imani Yako". The University Singers sang "Tanzen and Springen", and "Smile".

Ted Levine, Director of Bands, chose two pieces for the Concert Band to perform. They were "The Suite of Old American Dances" and "An Irish Rhapsody".

"The two pieces represent the folk tradition of two countries, The United States and Ireland," Levine stated in the program notes.

The Band and Chorus are made up almost all current Western New England students, with numbers increasing year by year. These students meet each week to practice and share in their love of music.

"This is definitely a special group and I am so glad to be a part of it," said Johnatan Nagasako, a freshman concert band member.

Fellow band member Ali Sutherland also added that participating in the program is rewarding. "Band makes me feel good and happy."

These students dedicate a lot of time and effort all semester long into putting on performances such as Sunday's Fall Showcase.

"I am proud of the efforts of everyone in both band and chorus," said Dr. Ellen Voth after the concert.

Chorus President, junior Matt Amann, reflected after the concert stating, "I think the concert went well. We were really prepared and our preparation was evident. I am really proud of myself and the other members of the chorus and I think we did a good job."

The audience, consisting of family, friends, and other members of the Western New England community, was also very impressed. Freshman Chelsea Gray enjoyed the concert with a group of friends.

"I had chills the entire time," she said. "It was so great."

President Caprio was also in attendance in support of the school's music groups.

"The University Campus Chorus and Concert Band have excelled over the years and the concert was a splendid success. I am just so proud of our students."

The University Campus Chorus will next be performing at the Festival of Lights, which will take place on Thursday, December 1st at 5:00pm in Rivers Arena. Both the Chorus and Concert Band will also perform in their annual Spring Showcase Concert on Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 at 3:00pm in the Sleith Hall auditorium.

TV talk: holiday edition

By: Hannah Berling

Image: tvguide.com

It is that time of year again. The turkey has been eaten and holiday decorations are being put up. This means one thing for the television world: holiday specials!

Every year, our TVs welcome in dozens of holiday themed shows, whether they are classic holiday specials, or new episodes of popular shows. In this issue's TV Talk, I am going to cover a few of the classics and some special episodes to be on the lookout for.

First off, let's discuss the holiday classics, the half hour specials that we cannot get enough of. Each special, while fun to watch, also teaches us a different heartfelt lesson fit for this time of year. Some of the best holiday lessons can be seen through watching *How the Grinch Stale Christmas* (the 1966 cartoon, not the 2000 Jim Carrey version), based on Dr. Suess' classic children's book. By indulging in this holiday classic, we can all learn to appreciate that this time of year is not merely about the presents. It celebrates the bringing together of friends and families during the holidays. Taking a similar approach is the 1965 *Charlie Brown Christmas* special. This holiday special takes a slightly more religious approach, but still focuses on the main idea that we should not get wrapped up in just the commercialization of the holidays, and rather embrace them for everything else they stand for.

There are also the classic Claymation specials that bring our favorite songs to life. It is hard to go through the season without watching *Rudolph The Red-Nased Reindeer* at least once. *Santa Claus is Caming Ta Tawn* tells us to, "put one foot in front of the other," and *The Year Without a Santa Claus* pits the Heat Miser versus the Snow Miser.

Outside of these timeless classics, popular TV shows are also planning holiday special episodes of their own. *Glee* just wrapped up the filming of their second annual Christmas episode, which will air on December 13, and will feature classic Christmas songs along with two *Glee* Original holiday songs. Speaking of *Glee*, NBC's *Community* is planning on airing a musical holiday themed episode on December 8th (a follow-up to their Claymation Christmas episode last year). *Modern Family* will follow up its recent Thanksgiving episode with an episode entitled, "Express Christmas" on December 7, and the December 8 episode of *The Office* is said to be titled, "Christmas Wishes".

So as you settle in to study this holiday season before we leave for break, indulge yourself and tune in to these holiday classics, or new holiday episodes of your favorite shows. Get out the cocoa and candy canes, and enjoy one of the best times of the year for television.

FEATURES

Midnight Madness recap

By: Sarah Whiles

Image: Jenny Woo

On November 11, 2011, many members of the Western New England campus gathered for Midnight Madness—a yearly tradition in which each class competes in many categories, including best dance, a special relay, Dizzy Bat, Tug-Of-War, Dodge Ball, and many more.

The class with the most wins ranks number one in the overall competition. This year, seniors came in first, followed by sophomores, juniors in third, and finally the freshmen.

The aim of Midnight Madness is to develop class unity and school spirit in a fun-filled, exciting way. Midnight Madness Chairperson, Michelle Wiggett, worked incredibly hard, since last spring, to pull everything together; however, her experience as lobby logistics chair for the two previous years definitely gave her a leg up in preparing.

"I am very sad for my final Midnight Madness to be over, and I will never forget my favorite event," Wiggett stated. "Midnight Madness this year was a fantastic event, despite having to push it back a week due to the weather. Both my executive board and general committee did a great job in terms of putting everything together in the weeks leading up to the event. We could not have done such a great job without the guidance of Dean Keizer and Valerie Romanello," Wiggett added

Whether they participated in an event, or just watched from the sidelines, everyone had a great time at Midnight Madness.

"Participating in Tug-Of-War was so much fun," said junior Alexandra Carter. "It was great to see the classes unite behind their respective teams. I would definitely do it again next year."

"This was the first year I really got into it, with a huge amount of red attire," stated Andrea Melone, also a junior. "I was lucky enough to get a good seat to watch the action take place, and I had a fantastic time!"

Do you draw? Have a good sense of humor? The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Beer Review: OPA-OPA

By: Tom LeClair and Barney Davis

This week our reviewers took on the tall order of reviewing a selection of beers from the Opa-Opa brewing company. This is a local brewing company just 30 minutes from campus in Southampton, MA. This mix pack includes the Opa light, An IPA, the Red Rock amber ale, and a seasonal beer.

We started with the Opa light, a standard light pilsner style lager. With a weak color and aroma, it was no surprise that this beer would be bland and generic. Lacking in all catagories, this beer's only saving grace was its lack of bitterness, (possibly in direct connection to the lack of flavor) and the low calorie count. But if you're into counting calories, beer probably isn't for you anyway.

Next, we tried the seasonal brew, which in this particular 12 pack it was the Blueberry Lager. Pouring the beer gave off a heavy blueberry aroma, promising a full tasting blueberry lager. The liquid, however, could not fulfill the promise of flavor and, again light color gave way to empty taste. The beer was light on the pallet on par of a pilsner more than a "traditional" fruit flavor lager.

The third beer we took from the pack was Opa-Opa India Pale Ale, with a bright and hoppy aroma, and a clear and coppery hue to it. The Opa IPA met the standard requirements of an IPA. It had a light body, with a decently hoppy after taste left in your mouth. This beer was well put together, but nothing outstanding in the vast field of IPA's.

The final and best beer in the back was the Red Rock Amber ale. True to all the Opa-Opa brews, the Red Rock had no head and no outstanding visual quality. The "airy" amber color made us wonder if it was true amber ale. Having been let down thus far we had little reason for hope, so the taste on this one snuck up on us. The rich body of the beer combined with the deep malty flavor confirmed that this was indeed an amber ale. The big surprise and highlight of this beer was a hint of caramel flavored after effect.

Note: All students imbibing alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

As a whole, we're sure there is a hidden gem somewhere that keeps the Opa-Opa name alive, but it's not to be found in their variety pack. Overall, we were not excited, challenged, or pleasured by this week's selection, but if you're into overpaying for exceedingly average beer, Opa-Opa is right down your ally.

Holiday Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

'Tis the season! In the spirit of the approaching festivities, these tips will make your holidays a little greener!

1) Wrapping paper: While it can be fun to enthusiastically tear paper off of the package, maybe you could try to take the wrapping paper off more carefully, so it can be reused. In my family, we reuse the paper over and over again until it's falling apart or lost its design appeal. Or, be creative with your wrapping paper choice. Instead of buying paper, you could use newspaper (especially the colorful comics!), old maps, or whatever else! You could even use a decorative cloth, scarf, or bandana.

2) Since one of the best parts of the holiday season is all of the lights, light, lights (unless you're the Grinch), try to save energy with LED lights! Or, you can unplug lights when you go to bed, since only pets and insomniacs will be able to enjoy them at night. Here's another fun idea: the Clapper! I don't know about you, but clapping the lights off always seems like a fun idea, particularly when it might be difficult to reach the outlet.

3) Shop online, if possible. It saves gas, and gas money. Plus on a cold day, you could stay at home with warm slippers and cocoa instead of driving (which sounds fantastic to me).

4) If you're buying a gift that requires batteries, buy the recipient rechargeable batteries to go with it, as they're better in the long run.

5) If you get a present you simply cannot stand and know you'll never use, consider donating it (or even re-gifting it). Plus, you could go through your current stash of goods and donate anything that you don't want, to make room for new goodies!

FEATURES

WNE's Of the Month Awards

By: Amanda DeCosta

It's almost December 1, and you all know what that means! It's time to get those Of The Month (OTM) submissions in.

You can write about anything on campus – an enthusiastic professor, an out-of-the-box program, an advisor, a student in your Residence Hall, even another club or organization for the month of November. OTMs are due on December 1 by 5:00pm, and to submit one is easy.

First, you can go to the OTM Database at www.otms.nrhh.org where you will find two links in the left hand corner – General Category and Program Category. If you went to or organized a fantastic program, click the second link. If you want to recognize a particular person or group of people, click the first link. Then choose Western New England University from the drop down menu. On the form, select what you are nominating for and fill out the corresponding information. Please make sure that you put your email and the email of the person you are nominating. Last but not least, click submit.

OTMs are part of a national competition between Colleges and Universities across the country. If your OTM is selected to represent Western New England University, then it competes against other institutions in our New England and New York region. If your OTM wins regionally, it competes with institutions across the entire country.

For the Month of October, the following are our Campus Winning OTMs: Advisor; Ian Martin, Community Service Program; Trick or Treat, Educational Program; Give A Damn, Executive Board Member; Jason Titelbaum, Faculty/Staff; Curt Hamakawa, Resident Advisor: Adam Gray*, Social Program; Bed Race, Spotlight; Nick St. John, Student; Tom LeClair*

*Both Adam Gray and Tom LeClair won on the Regional Level and will be continuing on to compete against other colleges and universities within the nation.

Congratulations to those Campus Winning recipients. If you have any questions about how to submit OTMs, tips on writing a winning OTM, or any questions about NRHH, please send the Maureen Keizer Chapter an email at keizerNRHH@gmail.com Until the next issue – happy writing!

News from Student Senate

By: Shaun Kelly

Student Senate would like to congratulate the Senior class for winning this year's Midnight Madness. We would also like to thank Chairperson Michelle Wiggett and the Midnight Madness Committee for an outstanding event this year. Student Senate is a proud sponsor of this event, and we enjoy seeing all our fellow classmates having a great time with all the activities going on that night.

Senate appoints the following Chairpeople...

CAB President 2011-2012
Hannah Berling

Spring Event Chair 2012
Kaylee McDonald

Festival of Lights Chair 2011
Sarah Wiles

A Message from the Midnight Madness Chairperson Michelle Wiggett

While there may have been a wait for Midnight Madness this year, it was worth it. People from each of the four classes, all proudly wearing their colors, cheered on their classmates as they battled for the top spot. Seniors were declared victorious by the end of the night, but it was the Sophomores who wowed the judges with their dance moves. It was a very successful event, and the Midnight Madness committee would like to thank all who made it possible, including Student Senate, RHA, GBTV, Sports Management Association, Professor Greeley of the Business school, our amazing judges, and Dean Keizer. The amount of collaboration we had for this event and the great turnout shows how much of a unified campus Western New England really is. Thank you!

Good Vibrations: Music Review

By: Cara Federici

Image: Lewis Cooper

I cannot imagine a better way to unwind from a hectic week than to spend Saturday, November 19, enjoying a performance by Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford, CT.

Usually a father/daughter bonding tradition, my father and I have been attending concerts together since I can remember. In fact, it was my father who introduced me to the Dave Matthews Band, allowing me to grow up listening to the wonderful rock riffs.

I am very grateful for my father, a gentleman with exceptional taste in music, who introduced various bands into my musical memory. He took me to see my first DMB concert, and since then, my appreciation for the band has grown. A DMB concert is not one to miss, but throw Tim Reynolds and an acoustic set into the sweet-sounding stew, and it will be one radical recipe you will never forget.

In the past, the Dave Matthews Band shows I attended were essentially parties with staggering live music. Living up to expectations, Matthews and Reynolds put on a memorable show. Playing an acoustic set, the duo jammed until I thought Reynold's strings would snap off of his guitar.

Matthews, who was feeling a bit under the weather, took to drinking tea between each song and apologizing for his partial cold. Despite stating he was ill, it was nearly impossible to notice any negative elements in his singing. In fact, if anything, Matthews' crackly, rustic voice was amplified even more making the experience additionally intimate and raw.

The relaxed experience of witnessing Matthews and Reynolds connected through song is downright brilliant. Once my father lent me Matthews and Reynolds' Live in Las Vegas CD set, I fell in love with Reynolds' sound.

I have never heard an individual play a guitar like Reynolds; his quick, witty sound mesmerized fans on Saturday night, leaving them speechless, as they gave standing ovations. A couple times throughout the night, Matthews went offstage to catch a little break, leaving Reynolds to create an echoing rock ballad with his guitar that amplified the sensation of the crowd.

Taking a break from his own band, TR3, Reynolds joined Matthews on a few tour stops, and fans were more than ecstatic to witness the pair creating music together.

One fan sitting behind me said, "I saw them last night in New York and drove three hours to be here today because the pair put on an amazing show last night," then went on to state that the crowd on Saturday would be pleased with the show.

Most fans in the audience, including myself, were amazed at the incredible talent that Matthews and Reynolds shared with the crowd. Jaw dropping notes streamed from their instruments during personal favorites "Funny the Way It Is", "Eh Hee", and "Dancing Nancies" that make me wonder how one duo can possess so much talent. A lasting impression was left on the audience, especially with my father, during the final encore song "Whiter Shade Of Pale" the duo covered by the band Procol Harum. When the first notes began vibrating through the theatre, the audience responded with a bellowing appreciation towards the talents of the gentleman on stage covering such a fantastic song.

This was my second time seeing Matthews share the stage with Reynolds, but my first acoustic show by the duo. Nonetheless, the talent displayed by the pair made a noteworthy impression on my admiration for them. If you want to hear an amazing acoustic performance, do not hesitate next time the party comes to town!

Opinion

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Student Debt Crisis? Try a Student Motivation Crisis

By: Kyle Wolf

Image: Luxary Fractional Guide

For the students at Western New England University and across the country, one of the major concerns is that after their undergraduate schooling is complete, they are going to be unable to pay their college loans. It's true, the cost of college has increased to rates that are unprecedented. Attending this University alone can place you in debt of over $100,000 if you're not cost conscience. To many students around the country, this is exactly what is happening. One of the many complaints that the infamous Occupy Wall street protesters are protesting about is in fact the high cost of education. And as usual, they fail to look into the heart of the problem: the students.

After asking a few students at Western New England about how they are handling their debt, they were generally unresponsive and seemed to not know what they are going to do about it. Good luck kids!

Maybe their parents will take care of their loans. Regardless of how they decide to pay off their loans, in no way, shape, or form, is it a debt crisis. Did you hear that, students? There is no debt crisis. In fact, all you have to do is take some personal responsibility and motivation to avoid being caught up in an artificial crisis.

First, students, no one said that you had to attend college. Somewhere a few years ago, society decided that everyone needs a college degree in order to get a good job. It seems like a sound argument, as students with a degree look more marketable on paper than those with simply a high school diploma. But, is it really true? There is an argument that college graduates make approximately double that which high school students make (approximately 1 million dollars more). Now deduct the cost of 4 years of college, the opportunity cost of the 4 years of job loss, and the cost of continuing education. Maybe you don't make that much more. And then, look at the examples of those non-college professionals, such as Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. They didn't become THAT successful.

So you don't really have to go to college to be successful. But since you did, there is no reason that you should ever be in debt.

When in high school, the first thing you should do after deciding on a college is to apply for scholarships. They are easy to find and believe it or not, they are practically free money! Many require only an essay or simple application. Even so, the money that you can potentially earn for a few hours work is more than many people make in an hour. They do require you do WORK however.

Secondly, find low or no interest loans. And these don't have to come from the federal government either. While there are opportunities from the government for low interest student loans, you can find many no interest loans from foundations in your community. For example, in Western Massachusetts, the Community Foundation offers students no interest loans and scholarships.

Thirdly, while in college, you can apply for work study jobs on campus, and there are a lot of them, or you can find an off campus job and pay off some tuition while in college. Believe it or not, your parents are not the only ones who are supposed to pay for your education.

Fourth, choose non-traditional housing. College dorms cost somewhere between $10,000-$12,000 for nine months. True, they are most convenient, as you can walk to anywhere on campus in about 10 minutes, but there are other options out there. Living off campus can potentially save you thousands of dollars and it allows you to have many more freedoms than you would on campus. Not only that, but you are able to better manage your money because you are forced to budget for rent and utilities.

Lastly, no one is forcing you to go to an expensive college. Students can choose schooling at a state or community college/university and then transfer into a 4 year college. This is a viable option that saves you money on classes that are requirements at expensive schools such as WNE. While WNE does offer a high quality education, it is necessary to take all introductory courses here? Not at all.

Students, you have ability to go to school and not have a huge debt after you graduate. In fact, not only do you have the ability to go to school debt, or relatively debt free, in these economic times, you have the expectation to come out of school debt free. Take control of your finances, and be responsible for the financial decisions you make. If you decided to not look for scholarships, grants, low/no interest loans, or non-traditional housing, guess whose fault it is. Not mine, not the government's, and not Wall Street's. It's yours. I recently saw a political cartoon of a then and now scenario, with parents yelling at a young boy for his bad grades under the "then" caption. Under the "now" caption, the parents were yelling at the teacher for the boy's bad grades. This sums up the explanation fairly well; we are easy to displace our problems and misfortunes on others, rather than take the responsibility ourselves. If you take control of your finances, then you will be better off as you will have almost no debt. However, if you lack motivation and have huge amounts of debt, you're not in a loan crisis. You're in a student motivation crisis. And there is no one to blame but yourself.

If you have an opposing opinion or would like your voice to be heard please submit an article to thewesternersn@yahoo.com or join one of our meetings held Tuesdays at 7p.m in Rivers 105.

Opinion

Occupy your mind: A response to Anti Occupy Wall Street

By: John Arvanitis

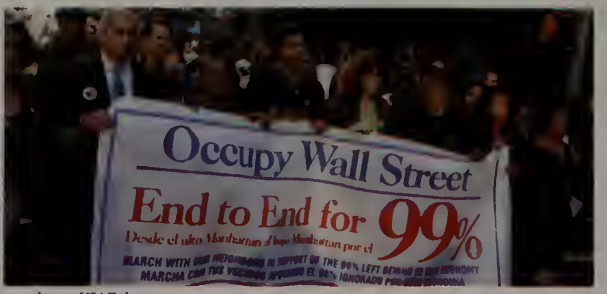

Image: USA Today

As I made my way to Lafayette Square to protest the latest environmental debauchery - the Keystone XL pipeline - the group I was with decided to take a quick detour to observe the Occupy Wall Street movement going on in downtown D.C. Unfortunately, what I saw was more of a circus show than a social movement. I witnessed tents strewn about, funky people serving food, and balding men (who still manage to grow three feet of dreadlocks) hitting on burnt out twenty-something year old pseudo hippies. There was literally a circus show featuring two women hula hooping for a solid twenty minutes, while strung out crazy dudes played base, sang, and rattled on some makeshift drums made from barrels. After my observation, I understood completely how the public could easily write off this movement as a bunch of disgruntled weirdoes demanding social change and government handouts. However, as I looked a bit closer there were many flashes of brilliance among these oddballs. I observed well-dressed men and women in their early thirties sitting quietly in their tents discussing how to further the movement while two young men sat peacefully at the base of the statue with signs reading "Yes We Can; Stop The Pipeline!" There was even a woman who was displaying her first hand photographs of the impact of nuclear weapons testing in the Middle East.

Like with any social movement, a person can easily pick the outliers of the group and chose to base the entire movement on their wild demands. Because of this phenomenon, many people do not actually understand what the Occupy protesters are all about. The main criticism of the movement is that these "activists" take no personal responsibility for their actions and that they are all just a bunch of jobless losers that want the wealth redistributed. I am writing this piece to explicitly inform readers that, yes, some are whack jobs, but the majority are certainly not, and their actions are much more calculated than one may see.

The whole view of the Occupy protesters lacking personal responsibility is an incredible irony. The entire movement is based upon the fact that corporations and the capitalist system have taken advantage of people in America. They demand that these corporations (or, as congress considers them, "people") be held responsible for their actions. They're sick of corporations putting profits before people, efficiency before environment and self-interest over justice. We have heard this 1,000 times before, right? Is their message just lost in a cacophony of restless young people complaining about "the system?" I think not. The movement is right about corporations running rampant through our lives. This alleged "free market economy" is supposed to be geared toward the best interest of the American people as a whole, not exclusively for the benefits of the affluent, influential, and financially independent. The Invisible Hand of the market is supposed to guide all decision making to satisfy the demands of the people. But how can this be done if big business is actually the hand that is juxtaposing us all with its Isotoner gloves so as not to get its fingerprints all over its shady dealings?

The Occupy movement does not hate capitalism; they just hate how corporations use it as a tool to manipulate people for their own ends. How can a free market exist when our whole economic structure relies almost completely on one source of foreign energy? How can ethical environmental policy be enacted when former heads of energy corporations are on the advising committees for these laws? How can Americans be free if we live continually in the shadow of big business and under the tyranny of oil? These are all questions that the protesters ask because they affect our lives whether we would like to admit it or not. These protesters have seen the negative effects and have decided not to deal with them anymore. They have decided to join in solidarity and attempt to go against the grain, and hopefully get their message heard.

The Occupy movement points out explicitly that America is not the land of equality but of equal opportunity - whatever that means. But how equal is it? How fair is it that every single working class citizen does not make even the smallest fraction of what CEOs with failing companies make, particularly CEOs who have done their jobs incorrectly and still receive bailouts. How fair is it that underclass citizens can't afford education and eventually end up as a part of the surplus or unemployed workforce partly because there isn't enough funding for the subsidizing of student loans and grants?

America has needed a movement like Occupy Wall Street, and we're lucky that we have over 3,000 people willing to get arrested for what's right. Before the Occupy Wall Street movement, how many Americans truly understood the wealth distribution of this country? The Harvard Business School and Duke University did a cooperative study to find out how well Americans understood the wealth distribution and what sort of distribution they would prefer in an ideal economic situation. These two schools drew from a random sample of one million people and selected 5,522 respondents (male, female, rich, poor, democrat, and republican) and showed them pictures of wealth distributions and asked them what they would prefer. The respondents were shown a picture of a perfect distribution of wealth, (20% going to each of the 5 quartiles of class and income), the wealth distribution of Sweden (which was nearly equal), and the distribution of the United States. The results showed that 90% of Republican respondents and 93.5% of Democratic respondents chose the wealth distribution of Sweden.

In addition, when respondents were asked what they believed to be the distribution of wealth in the United States, many vastly underestimated the inequality. Respondents showed that the consensus was that the highest quartile (or the top 20%) held only 59%, while the actual number is closer to 85%. This ignorance shows that perhaps people's negative feelings towards wealth distribution can be attributed to the fact that Americans just don't understand the social and economic injustice that exists in this nation, and therefore a social movement like Occupy Wall Street is absolutely imperative to bringing understanding to the American people.

It all boils down to American values. This very country was built on the sole value of personal responsibility, and as Americans, it is all our collective responsibility to voice our opinions if we're not satisfied with what's going on in this country. To say these men and women of the Occupy Wall Street movement are not acting American is foolish and blasphemous. These people camping out in public squares are partaking in most American of all acts: challenging the government. This movement is a culmination of all the different issues currently plaguing American youth and should not be taken lightly.

President Barack Obama put it best in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech when he said, "We lose ourselves when we compromise the very ideals that we fight to defend. And we honor those ideals by upholding them not when it's easy, but when it is hard." It's easy to give in to the pressures of the oil industry and continue to bolster fossil fuel use, it is easy to continually make excuses for big business, and it is easy to accept massive wealth inequality in the United States. The men and women of the Occupy Wall Street movement are doing what is hard. They are standing up for what they believe in and attempting to change the world they live in. Even in the face of heavy scrutiny, they have banded together and remained relatively peaceful while still getting their message out. These citizens are true Americans in every sense of the word, and if we as a nation can look past some of the "weirdoes" associated with this movement, then we can all move toward a better understanding of what a free and equal land should look like.

Sports

Exciting Western New England Fall Season Wraps Up

By: Pat O'Rourke

Image: wnegoldenbears.com

The 2011 fall sports season has come to an end, and the following is a recap of each of Western New England's teams for the fall.

The football team, after a 2010 season where the Golden Bears had their best season in program history with a 9-2 record, winning their first bowl game, followed up with a 2011 campaign that delivered a 10-2 record. This included the program's first NEFC championship against Framingham State 20-13 in overtime, which earned them their first appearance in the NCAA Division III tournament where they lost in the first round to Salisbury State 62-24. Senior Todd Krolikowski, and juniors James Georges, Mike Graham, and Phil Tsopanides were named to the NEFC Boyd Division first team, while seniors Bryce Brown, Rob Kampson, Chris Mullins, and Richard Poquette, juniors Corey Brown and Alex Miller, sophomore Brandon Ormsby, and freshman Nick Fox-Edele were named to the NEFC Boyd Division second team. Senior Mike Valentine was named to the Capital One NCAA Division III District 1 Academic Team as well as winning the Nason Senior Achievement Award. Head Coach Keith Emery was named NEFC coach of the year.

The men's soccer team posted a 19-4-1 record for the 2011 campaign going 9-0 in conference play. They also won the CCC tournament for the fourth time in five years earning a bid to the NCAA Division III Championship where they hosted the first two rounds. In the first round, they defeated SUNYIT 1-0 and lost in overtime 3-2 to the #2 team, St. Lawrence University. Seniors Shawn Fitzpatrick, Eric Marcelino, and sophomore Domenick Villano all earned All-CCC first team honors. Senior Corey Howard, junior Bobby Jamison, and sophomores Jake Bartnik, Kevin Parma, and Ryan Williams were named to the second team. Fitzpatrick was also named co-CCC Defensive Player-of-the-year, and head coach Erin Sullivan was named the CCC coach-of-the-year. Parma was also named to the Capital One NCAA Division III District 1 Academic Team.

The men's cross country team finished third at the CCC meet for the second consecutive year. The team was led by all-conference performers, senior Jeff Wagner, who came in 9th overall with a time of 28:26, and sophomore Pat O'Rourke, who came in 10th overall with a time of 28:27.

The golf team finished 1st out of 6 teams in the CCC championship tournament, 3rd out of 12 in the ECAC Division III New England Championship and 11th out of 34 in the 77th Annual NEIGA Championship.

The women's cross country team finished sixth at the CCC meet for the second consecutive year. Sophomore Maura McCusker was the top WNE runner with a time of 26:38, finishing 37th out of 103 runners overall.

The field hockey team finished the 2011 season going 4-16 overall with a 2-8 record in conference play. Senior Kathleen Jasinski, junior Shelby Van Huysen, and sophomore Jaynie Mueller were named to the All-CCC second team.

The women's soccer team had a 3-13-3 record in during the regular season, worthy of the eight seed in the CCC tournament where they upset the #1 seeded University of New England on penalty kicks in the quarterfinals before losing to Endicott 1-0 in the semifinals. Senior Sara McMurray was named to the All-CCC second team.

The women's tennis team posted a 5-5 record in 2011, qualifying for the CCC tournament, where they were defeated in the quarterfinals by Roger Williams, 5-0. Senior Christina Barbarisi was named to the All-CCC first team in addition to receiving the CCC Scholar Athlete of the Year award. Seniors Nicole DeSimone and Caitlin Hughes were named to the All-CCC second team.

The women's volleyball team went 15-15 in the first season under head coach Bret Stothart. The team posted a 5-3 record in conference play. In the postseason the Golden Bears defeated the University of New England 3-2 in the quarterfinals and lost to Roger Williams in the conference semi-finals 3 to 0. The team then played in the Division III Eastern College Athletic Conference tournament and lost to Plymouth State in the first round 3-1. Sophomore Maureen Pollett was named to the All-CCC second team.

WNE Hockey Wins Second Consecutive Pepperidge Farm Classic

By: Pat O'Rourke

Image: wnegoldenbears.com

When Western New England head hockey coach Greg Hefferman arrived on campus in 2009, he was taking over a team that was coming off a 3-20-2 season.

With a 7-0 victory over Southern New Hampshire University on November 13, 2010, the Golden Bears won their first Pepperidge Farm Classic. The victory set the tone for a 2010-2011 campaign that ended with the team making their first postseason appearance since 2000.

One year later, the Golden Bears won the title for the second consecutive year, this time under different circumstances and a different mindset.

"Last year, we looked at the tournament as an opportunity to put ourselves on the map," said Hefferman, who has his team out to a 4-2 start this season. "This year it is about learning how to play in an environment where you know you can win."

It was an environment where the Golden Bears would see the same result. In the first game the Golden Bears found the net five times with four different players in a 5-2 victory over Johnson and Wales, who they went 0-3 against in 2010-2011, being outscored 25-6 in the three contests.

In the championship game WNE scored the game's final three goals en route to a 4-1 victory over Worcester State.

Scoring leaders for the Golden Bears during the tournament were sophomore John Kelly, who had a goal and four assists in the two games; sophomore Chris Connors, who had 2 goals and an assist; and sophomore goaltender Eric Sorenson, whose 2-0 record and .950 save percentage in the tournament earned him ECAC Northeast Goalie-of-the-Week honors.

Hefferman stressed that the score sheet does not represent all that went right for the Golden Bears.

"I loved the way the guys competed for a full 60 minutes," he said. "I feel we established a benchmark for our expectations as a program, not necessarily in wins and losses, but the pace of play and the physical nature of our game. Everyone did a great job of buying into their own roles, which allowed us to work very well as a unit."

Hefferman also applauded the team's special play in the tournament. The Golden Bears scored on 3 of 14 power play opportunities and dissallowed goals on eight penalties in the two games.

Despite all the good, Hefferman still admits there is a lot of room for improvement.

"I thought we still made a lot of fundamental mistakes," said Hefferman. "We need to be more disciplined in executing the things we need to, as opposed to the things we want to."

After winning the 2010 tournament, the team lost 16 of the final 22 games of the 2010-2011 season, something Hefferman says is indicative of the strides that still must be made as a program.

"When I came here, I took over a 3-20 program. While we have come a long way in my time here, we still have a long way to go before we are a 20-3 program getting postseason wins, which is our ultimate goal."

Following the 2011 tournament the Golden Bears have won 2 of the 3 games, with wins against Wentworth and Manhattanville, a team they had never beaten before. Their next game is at Salve Regina on November 30.

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Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Student orangizations begin experiencing Kodiak

By: Sarah Wiles

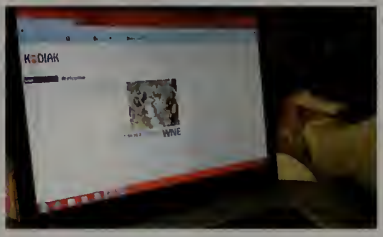

Image: Hannah Berling

Last fall, it was announced that the Western New England University's online classroom technology, Manhattan, would be removed and replaced with Kodiak, a completely new system.

This change will occur slowly over the spring semester; it will be entirely moved over by next fall. This spring, clubs and organizations are being given the opportunity to utilize Kodiak in order to become accustomed to its differences and provide feedback to the Office of Information and Technology regarding possible improvements. One of these organizations is Student Senate, who recently held a Kodiak training session with all of its members.

Student Senators found that Kodiak is much more advanced that Manhattan. Some of the new features include belonging to more than one "team" and, as opposed to sending "post office" messages, sending messages directly to their school emails. Sophomore Electrical Engineer Tom Notchick expresses concern about the fact that there are no more red stars, notifying students of updated assignments or messages. "I don't like that part," he explains, "because it may be easy to miss something unless you open the link to every class."

Some students are in favor of the increased use of school emails. "I think it would be great for the students to start using their school emails. Important news comes in through email, and half the students don't get them because they don't check it," says Dianna Willms, a sophomore industrial engineer.

Another key change to the online aspect of the University is the new email system. To login to your new email, go to www.owa.wne.edu. If you have not logged in previously, you must first change your password. Emails are no longer forwarded to other addresses, so you must log into the website to receive any school email.

Imrpovements made to Gateway crosswalk

By: Hannah Berling

Image: Hannah Berling

The cross walk leading from Emerson Hall to Gateway has been stirring up controversy among students lately, but recent improvements have brought a new sense of safety to the area.

The Student Senate Campus Relations committee set out to make the Gateway crosswalk safer for students, and recently major improvements have been made to the area.

"The Campus Relations Committee has been working closely with Chief Woodrow to address student's safety concerns." Campus Relations Chairperson Alex Noga stated.

The first line of business was to inspect the lighting in the area. Previously, one of the overhead lights near the buttons triggering the crosswalk light had been in need of replacement. Currently, all the lights are working, and the angle of one of the lights was changed so it now shines more directly on the entrance to the crosswalk.

The next concern students posed was the lack of cars willing to stop at the crosswalk. Student Senate has also worked with public safety to make the situation easier. The Springfield area police department has been notified of the situation and will be monitoring the area whenever possible. In addition, public safety has scheduled times to have officers sit in patrol cars near the crosswalk with their lights on in hopes to make drivers more aware of the area. Noga said that students have approached him, noticing improvements in the area.

"Within the first week of Public Safety being present at the crosswalk, students have noticed passing motorists yielding to students more frequently. One student told me that they saw Springfield Police pull over a motorist who failed to yield to students this past week."

The Campus Relations committee and Student Senate hope that these changes will only continue to improve the area and students will feel more comfortable when crossing the road on that side of campus.

Noga finished, "It is great to see that our efforts are already making a difference for students around campus."

ENTERTAINMENT

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Campus Activities Board Hosts Trip to NYC

By: Corinne Gamache

On Saturday February 4th, when the bus for the Outing Club's ski trip to Mount Snow was halfway to their destination, 53 more well-rested students were boarding a bus bound for New York City. For this writer, who was deciding between the ski trip and the NYC trip, not having to be on the bus until 8:30 AM was definitely a plus. The clincher, though, was the chance to see a highly acclaimed performance of The Phantom of the Opera in the famous Majestic Theater for a low cost, courtesy of Western New England's Campus Activities Board.

The day ran smoothly, with the bus arriving in New York around 11:30 at the beautiful Bryant Park. From there, we headed toward Times Square for a day of fun, dodging pedestrians and taxis along the way. We then split up for some quick shopping and lunch. It seemed the only way to avoid paying $20 for a sandwich was to go to a chain restaurant. Even though traveling all the way

Image: Corinne Gamache

to New York City just to end up eating at McDonalds seems like a letdown, this particular McDonalds had views overlooking Time Square and was so nicely decorated inside that it was easy to forget that it was just a McDonalds.

The performance was at 2:00 and, unusual for a college group, everyone was waiting outside the theater on time. After some slight confusion, tickets were handed out and we took our seats in the famous Majestic Theater. Although it is considered one of the larger Broadway theaters with over 1,600 seats, it felt relatively small and all the seats were crammed together. However, all of the action was easily seen. This production of The Phantom of the Opera featured award-winning Hugh Panaro as the Phantom and Broadway veteran Trista Moldovan as Christine Daae. Since it was a Saturday afternoon performance, we had expected to see the Phantom's understudy, but we were pleasantly surprised to see Panaro in the role knowing that he would only have a few hours of rest before jumping back into the vocally demanding role for the nighttime showing.

The performance was amazing. The plot follows the actress Christine Daae who has been taught how to sing by a mysterious "Angel of Music". Freak accidents are happening at the opera house where Christine performs and she soon learns that her singing tutor is actually the obsessed and grotesque Phantom. The actors were at the top of their game and the special effects and set design were flawless, especially the iconic chandelier scene and a giant staircase that serves as the set for the first part of the second act. In a world where we are so used to lip-synching and auto-tune, hearing actors belting out these incredibly difficult songs right in front of you is such a breath of fresh air.

After the show ended, there were four hours of free time for leisurely dinners and more shopping. Around 8:00, we congregated around the ice skating rink in Bryant Park and watched the skaters while waiting for the bus to arrive. Congratulations to CAB Travel Chairman Kyle Wolf on making this trip a success.

TV Talk: Award Season Edition

By: Hannah Berling

The transition from 2011 to 2012 means one important time for the entertainment world: awards season. We are in the midst of the 2012 award season with the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild (SAG) awards behind us and the Grammys and Oscars still to come. With these awards come stand out movies, television shows, celebrity fashion critiques, and major media attention.

E! is one channel that takes award season very seriously, but they are not as interested in who wins or loses. Rather, they are looking at the fashion and in the hunt for spoilers. Before each award show they launch their E! Live from the Red Carpet special in which they devote two hours before each award show to the time the celebrities spend arriving. This special is followed by recaps of what happened on E! Online, critiques of fashion choices on the popular series Fashion Police, and coverage on their nightly E! News. Once off the red carpet and settled into the arenas, halls, or hotels where the various awards are held, the standouts in the worlds of TV, film, and music are crowned. On the television side, both the Golden Globes and the SAG awards brought victories to Modern Family and Boardwalk Empire while popular shows such as Glee, Big Bang Theory, and True Blood were unable to bring home any awards. Thus far for the film industry this season has belongcd to The Help and The Artist. At the Globes Octavia Spencer brought home the award for "Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture". Spencer also won the award for "Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role" at the SAG Awards along with Viola Davis winning the same award for a leading role. The movie also won the SAG award for "Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture." The Artist took home three Globes including, "Best Motion Picture- Comedy or Musical" and a SAG Award for actor Jean Dujardin. The movie is expected to excel at the Oscars on February 26th.

While the Grammys do not take place until February 12th, the night is already expected to be the night of Adele. The pop sensation is up for six awards at the show and Entertainment Weekly has predicted she will take home five of them. The singer has also announced she will make her live comeback from recent throat surgery at the show.

The Oscars take place the week following the Grammys and the films to watch for include The Descendents, The Help, and The Artist. The battle for Best Picture this year comes down to those movies along with Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Hugo, Midnight In Paris, Moneyball, The Tree of Life, and War Horse. Entertainment Weekly and other top media publications are picking The Artist, which is a silent film, as the frontrunner.

Whether you watch for the spoilers, the dresses, the couples, the presenters, or the winners, award season can bring out the pop culture geek in all of us. Even if you missed the Goldcn Globes or SAG awards it isn't too late to sit down and fill out your ballet to predict the winners for the Grammys or Oscars.

ENTERTAINMENT

WNEK: A Growing Community

By: Hannah Berling

For those of you here at Western New England University that may be new, or just looking to get involved in something new: we have a growing radio station that broadcasts throughout Springfield and some parts of Wilbraham. We are looking for new talent to help make the station grow even further. We have just recently within the past year picked up live internet streaming so that anyone around the world can hear our broadcast. For those of you aspiring DJs who have family who may be in a different town or even a different state, they can stream your show live. We have also recently created a discussion board on our Manhattan classroom where anyone can post current and upcoming artists' music and information about those artists. Within the next few weeks, we are going to have a table set up in the campus center around lunchtime each day run by the executive board. The goal of this table will be to draw new people into the station and help us grow. We are also going to have applications available for anyone interested in applying for the positions of Program Manager as well as the Promotions Manager. I encourage all of you to experience WNEK radio; you can stream us through channel 10.6 on any TV on campus or through iTunes under the college radio tab and of course through any radio at frequency 105.1FM.

Puzzle 1 Solution

3	6	4	5	8	1	7	2	9
2	5	1	4	9	7	8	3	6
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1	3	2	9	6	5	4	8	7
9	4	8	7	5	2	6	1	3
8	2	7	3	4	6	5	9	1
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5	7	3	8	1	4	9	6	2
6	1	5	2	7	9	3	4	8

Puzzle 2 Solution

4	6	7	9	3	1	5	2	8
3	1	5	8	2	7	9	6	4
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5	3	8	4	6	9	1	7	2
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2	4	1	7	5	8	3	6	9
6	8	9	3	1	4	2	5	7
7	5	4	2	8	6	9	3	1
1	2	3	5	9	4	8	1	6

Hello Golden Bears!

Do you have a poem, short story, or piece of artwork you would like for the world to see (and by world I mean campus)??
You can submit your pieces to The Review of Art and Literature:
wnereview@gmail.com
or
drop it in the submissions box outside of rivers 107.
Please include your name, major, and year.
Cassandra Deal, Editor

FEATURES

ASB students fundraise

By: Andrea Melone

Each spring break, Western New England University students take part in a nationwide volunteer program known as Alternative Spring Break. Teams travel across the country to different locations to dedicate themselves to various projects.

This year, WNE will have three groups, going to sites around the country to better the respective communities.

One group will go to Chatawahatchee Bay, Florida for environmental conservation, another to Greenfield, New Hampshire to help individuals with disabilities, and the third will go to Radford, Virginia to work with the at-risk youth population.

However, these trips can be quite expensive: students must pay for travel expenses, housing, food, etc. Depending on the location of the site and the type and amount of travel, costs for students can become somewhat daunting.

In order to help fund their trips, the groups have planned on applying for various forms of grant money. They have already thankfully received money from Hamden Bank, the Alumni Association, and Student Senate.

In addition to the grant money, another way to help reduce the out-of-pocket costs for indviduals going on the trip was to work with the Springfield Falcons Hockey Team. The ASB students have been selling tickets to a Springfield Falcons/Connecticut Whale hockey game, on February 10. The ASB group's goal was to sell a minimum of 50 tickets, so that they may be entered into a raffle to potentially win more money.

The students will also work with Chili's restaurant. For each dollar spent, the WNE Alternative Spring Break students will receive 10%, of the proceeds, which can add up quickly.

Last year's "pet-a-puppy program" was popular, so the team will hopefully be able to bring it back, as well as a new potential program, in which students will offer to pump gas for drivers at stations on particularly cold days so they don't have to leave their warm cars. Both events are the planning process, but are not decided on for sure.

Lastly, the annual Pasta Dinner is to take place March 3, which celebrates the students' upcoming efforts with food, entertainment, and raffle baskets.

"In order to afford these trips, we are working hard to come up with the best fundraising ideas," stated Sedeline Joseph, team leader of the trip to Virginia. "Please help in supporting ASB, making this another successful trip for 2012."

Top 1% of student leaders

By: Amanda DeCosta

Last spring semester, an honorary was created at Western New England University to recognize student leaders in our residence halls that are making a difference. The National Residence Hall Honorary is an organization that recognizes student leaders living on campus, making outstanding contributions to the University, yet often go unnoticed for their hard work and dedication.

The Maureen Keizer Chapter at Western New England University is a selective group made of those student leaders.

Do you know someone who would be an amazing addition to our chapter? Think you have what it takes to represent the Top 1% of **ALL** student leaders? Below are the following requirements for students looking to be inducted into the chapter:

Students must be a resident, must have a GPA average of at least 2.8, and must be in good standing with Residence Life

If you are interested in learning more about NRHH, want to nominate someone to join the chapter, or want to apply yourself, please contact the Maureen Keizer Chapter at keizerNRHH@gmail.com. The deadline to nominate individuals is **February 10th, 2012** and the deadline to apply is **February 24th, 2012**

Good Vibrations: Jason LaVasseur

By: Cara Federicci

Every true road tripper knows it is vital to create a carefully selected playlist comprised of head-bopping, mood lifting tunes that can be boisterously sang along to when a refreshing breeze dances through the open window while the sun's warm rays create a cozy atmosphere; however, at the small CAB concert in the Rock Café on Friday, January 27th, Jason LeVasseur belted out the most important part of his road trip anthems: the fact that "The Driver Is The DJ". With blatant charisma and toe-tapping beats, LeVasseur officially earned his spot on my summer 2012 soundtrack.

Image: Chantel Branco

I did not know what to expect from LeVasseur before attending the show; the only bit about the gentleman that I gathered was that he had previously opened for the Dave Matthews Band and was a genuinely awesome person. I can honestly say that genuinely awesome was an understatement.

Fully clad in a backwards green trucker hat, blue and white plaid button-down, and baggy khakis, Nashville, TN resident LeVasseur hopped on stage following a short performance from fellow musician (and former babysitter) Jerry Chapman, a North Carolinian who also works on a musical side project with LeVasseur known as *Life In General*. Individually these musicians were without a doubt entertaining, but the smiles on their faces when jamming out simultaneously were what made the evening even better.

LeVasseur's magnetic stage presence was partinently potent; I don't think I have seen many musicians live who forget the words to their own songs and are as quick or clever to continue singing improvised lyrics that involve members of the audience. I was belly-laughing in the audicnce with complete awe at how truly genuine this gentleman seemed. It was obvious that LeVasseur had won over the crowd with his wit and Oasis "Wonderwall" cover and I did not think that it was possible for him to outdo himself, but LeVasseur proved me wrong when he went from singing an original song to a few verses of Kelis' "Milkshake". It is amazing how much power one nostalgic song can hold because the audience's smiles were never-ending.

My personal favorite was the medley including Eminem's "Cleaning Out My Closet", TLC's "No Scrubs", and Outkast's "Ms. Jackson", but let's not forget his short medley rendition within his original song "The Steps of St. Patrick's" complete with such songs as Spice Girls' "Wannabe", Nelly Furtado's "I'm Like a Bird", and Sir-Mix-A-Lot's "Baby Got Back". Combine humorous, heartfelt laughter and some old-school tunes and you've won my harmonious heart over.

Aside from the wonderful random interpretations of lovely nostalgic songs, my favorite song of the evening was LeVasseur's cover of Counting Crow's "A Murder of One" that he dedicated to his father, Bill LeVasseur, who was in attendance after flying in from Mexico. The silky acoustics mixed with Jason's raspy voice created the perfect cover that left each individual smiling at the dedication's honor.

Overall, it was a very captivating small CAB concert filled with tremendous talent. Acoustic shows never fail to entertain; it is very hard to find a feeling that compares to experiencing the bass bumping through your bones, but acoustic shows allow for the sweet sting of a guitar's strings embossed in your memory when one riff ends and on-stage small-talk kicks in. Jason LeVasseur and Jerry Chapman were two gentlemen who truly left their paw prints on small concert loving Golden Bears.

Features

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

Valentine's Day pays a huge contribution to landfills each year, with the assorted empty boxes of chocolate, the cards, the gifts that will eventually end up in the dump (not necessarily due to a break up, merely because everything will in time). So try to be a little greener this year with some of these tips and ideas, whether you're for the holiday or not!

For all you lovers of Valentine's Day:
1) Cards: Try to find a greeting card made from recycled paper. Or, you could save the paper all together and send an e-card instead!

2) Chocolate: Consider perhaps organic chocolate. Or, at the very least, recycle the cardboard box the chocolates come in (you can throw away the plastic wrappings).

3) Flowers: If you want to buy flowers, maybe you could buy organic or locally grown. Or, buy a potted plant that can brighten up a room.

4) Creativity: Everyone could sometimes use a little stress relief; instead of buying a product, get a gift certificate to a health spa or to get a massage. Or, you could even make your own gift certificate good for personal massages by you (which has a certain sweetness to it, and it is obviously considerably cheaper).

And if you're not such a big fan of the holiday…
Do some of the same things, but buy AFTER Valentine's Day, when everything's on sale! Heck yes, half-off assorted chocolates! ☺

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Not only are we looking for writers, we are also looking to fill some E-board positions including the **Features Section Editor** and **Online Section Editor**. If you're of age and wish to continue the **Beer Review**, or just want to contribute an **opinion piece**, **column** or **comic strip**, we could use your talent!

If you have any other fresh ideas for the paper, or would like to work on other portion such as layout, come to our meetings **Tuesdays at 7:00PM in Rivers 105**

Also keep in mind that working on the Westerner can be used as an LBC.

If you are interested in The Westerner please email us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com or stop by at one of our meetings.

Support your peers by tuning into GBTV on channel 8.2 and the WNEK 105.1 radio station.

Puzzle 1

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		6	4				2	9
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle 2

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

6			4		1	3		
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Opinion

State of the Union: A total "Obama-nation"

By: Holden Canty

On January 25, in accordance with article 2 section 3 of the Constitution, President Obama addressed a joint session of Congress to give them "Information of the State of the Union." Instead of giving the Congress a real update of the state of the union, the President delivered an "Obama-nation" of a speech. Obama used this opportunity, where all eyes were on him to kick off his re-election campaign, to blame the Republican controlled House of Representatives, and further the agenda of big government. He also demonstrated his complete lack of understanding of economics.

Mr. Obama was quick to blame his predecessor, Mr. Bush, for the dismal state of the economy, and within just five minutes had also blamed Mr. Bush for the high unemployment that has plagued his own Presidency. "In the six months before I took office, we lost nearly $4 million jobs. And we lost another $4 million before our policies were in full effect." Indeed, George Bush deserves a share of the blame for the struggling economy, as his big government policies helped perpetuate the housing bubble, added to the debt, and abandoned the principles of free market capitalism. However, after three years, isn't it time Obama took some responsibility?

Apparently, the President didn't think so, as he had plenty more blame to go around for the Republican controlled House of Representatives, calling them obstructionists, saying "I intend to fight obstruction with action, and I will oppose any effort to return to the very same policies that brought on this economic crisis in the first place." The only action that the President has taken is to put the Constitution through a shredder through actions such as his "recess" appointments while the Congress was not actually in recess! And as for his claim to oppose returning to failed policies that created the economic crisis, I would say those are very hypocritical words delivered by a man who has doubled down on the failed policies of President Bush that helped fuel the economic collapse of 2008.

George Bush's $700 billion TARP program didn't work, so Obama tried a $1 Trillion stimulus that failed miserably to create jobs. George Bush's bailout of AIG doesn't sit well with you? Well Obama bailed out both Chrysler and General Motors. (The majority of Chrysler is now owned by Fiat, an Italian company, and General Motors has given us the Volt, a "green" car that has batteries that easily catch fire and gets less than 25 miles on a full night's charge). Bush added about $5 Trillion to the debt in eight years, and Obama has added nearly as much in just three. After spending all of this money, there has been no job creation. The unemployment rate has only gone down because the government does not count jobless people who have given up looking for work as "unemployed,"- a scam only the government would perpetuate. The President claims that the government had agreed to cut the deficit by $2 Trillion, which is quite misleading. The government is not actually cutting spending, but only reducing the rate at which they increase spending. For the President to say that he will not support failed policies is a flat out lie to the Congress and to the American people.

The President then praised big government and insisted that we expand government power and spending in everything from education to energy production. The President wants to spend OUR TAX DOLLARS to pay for others to go to college, to subsidize big businesses and give kickbacks to his supporters (George Soros, Solyndra, General Electric, etc). However, he refuses to be open with the American people (after campaigning on the idea of a transparent government) and continues to call for "everyone to do their fair share." This is the President's euphemism for raising taxes. Why is Obama not calling for those taking handouts to do their fair share and stop demanding they should be given more of other people's money without providing anything in return?

These handouts are not only immoral (would you think it's moral for one neighbor to take your things and give it to another neighbor?) but they make no economic sense. Middle class citizens are taxed heavily, and the government borrows trillions (from the Federal Reserve and from China) to give these handouts, on which poor people become more and more dependant. The taxes and borrowing causes inflation (since the Federal Reserve was created and government spending began to skyrocket in 1913, the dollar has lost 92% of its value). This devaluation has resulted in several countries shying away from using the American dollar as the currency of international trade. Countries are now using their home currency and gold to trade with other nations). All of this results in more and more people falling into poverty and becoming dependant on government. If the cycle continues long enough, production will halt, hyperinflation will take hold, and the economy will collapse.

The President believes that we need big government to intervene in the marketplace, and that it is in our best interest to subsidize manufacturers in order to bring jobs back to America. This is exactly what demonstrates the President's complete lack of understanding of how economics works. The President would give special tax breaks to companies that bring jobs back to America, which sounds great, but makes no sense if you stop and think about it. This would take money out of the pockets of efficient businesses and workers and give that money to inefficient manufacturers (they are inefficient because it would be more efficient for them to manufacture their goods in China). This results in less overall production and higher production costs, which means there are less goods available to consume, and they cost more. A great example is Apple. All Apple products are made in China, and are available to U.S. consumers at their current prices. If Apple brings production to America, the price of all of their products will go up, hurting millions of consumers.

Instead of stealing from efficient producers and consumers the government should de-regulate, pass right to work laws and let Americans do what we do most efficiently (building capital goods such as airplanes, telecommunications equipment etc) while letting companies take production elsewhere when it is more efficient to do so. This coupled with free trade would result in more goods available for consumption at lower prices. But instead of embracing this idea of free markets, Obama has rejected it and replaced it with an idea of corporatism and big government.

President Obama is not serious about restoring America to the Constitution, Liberty and Prosperity, and it was evident in his State of the Union Address.

Pro Bowl Disappointment

By: Frank Maturo

Remember what you did January 29, 2012 around 7:00pm? Were you watching the National Football League Pro Bowl? Probably not, and although I do not blame you, for I watched a mere seven minutes myself, the game still deserves recognition. All-Star games are meant to be fun, relaxed, enjoyable weekend-style down time for professional athletes and their families. The Pro Bowl, featured in Hawaii the week prior to the grand stand daddy of all sporting events, The Super Bowl, has the laid-back attitude on and off the field. This year's Pro Bowl had all the football stars, excluding those from the Super Bowl-worthy Giants and Patriots teams and those who opt out of participating based on injury. Even without Tom Brady, or Eli Manning, the game has plenty to bolster on each roster. Locked in MVP finalists, Aaron Rodgers and Drew Brees, stack the NFC offense, while the AFC lays out NFL leading rusher, Maurice Jones-Drew. Let's get to the game itself.

The hype of the week leading up to the Pro Bowl is still Super Bowl-driven; the NFL Season rests within the palms of the hallowed ground we've come to know as Super Bowl Sunday. The Pro Bowl players aren't there to impress anyone in Hawaii, though the fans wish they would. Fans who attended the Honalu'lu event rang out "boos" to start the game because of lacking effort. If I put money down to watch my favorite athletes play football, well then, they best play football. Aaron Rodgers can rant about the lack of effort, but being a sore loser over the NFC dropping the Pro Bowl 59-41 to the AFC All-Stars doesn't grab my attention. I know Aaron, the Giants? The Giants beat Green Bay at Lambeau in the post-season again? Thought you weren't so Brett after all? Ah yes, the Giants.

Throughout the seven minutes I gave the game, I was in the same boat as the fans in attendance. This wasn't football, this was pure backlot fun, and the players have a point: let's have some fun, go deep, and air it out. The running backs should just stay home, because that's what fans want to see, but they also want to see defense because we all know that is what wins a championship. We want to watch Drew Brees take an eight step

Continued on page 6

Opinion

Pro Bowl cont. from fifth page

drop, heave it out, in reminiscent of Doug Flutie, and watch the magic of football unfold. Athleticism is what we're looking for guys, give it to us. Speed, jukes, hurdles, one-handed snags, vertical leaps not seen at the combine, even defenders doing the same is what we crave. That's what we're looking for. I wish Joe Flacco would be in every Pro Bowl, because I want to see him throttle a ball 85 yards and connect with Brandon Marshall for a score. Speaking of Brandon Marshall...

Records were even broken in this Pro Bowl, and many missed it. NBC drew a 7.9 TV rating, down from the 8.6 FOX drew last year, a decrease by 8.1%. NBC may have won the Sunday Spotlight for ratings, but what else was there to offer? Bob's Burgers? Yea thanks, I'll pass, give me the gridiron. The NHL All-Star Game? There's a weekend in general I crave, and a game where I can appreciate having fun and showing off the skill without defense, but if less people are watching the Pro Bowl than usual, then even less are watching the NHL. Hats off to Brandon Marshall, who put more effort in to this game than he did any other throughout the entire 2011-2012 NFL Season. Four touchdowns, a new Pro Bowl record, and 176 yards: an incredible day for a regular/post-season wide receiver. Then again, the Pro Bowl is the post-season, no? Receivers stole the spotlight. Running backs, well I've said it before, seriously, tell these guys to stay home. What's the point, no one is breaking for 100+ on Pro Bowl Sunday. Larry Fitzgerald tied Jimmy Smith's former record of three touchdowns, leading the way for the NFC Offense with 111 yards of his own.

Defense: well, there were five interceptions, that counts for something right? Cam Newton got screwed; the AFC finally picked it up on defense once he got in and laid it onto the rookie. Andy Dalton made his case for Offensive Rookie of the Year. No. Cam Newton will still hoist the hardware, he deserves it. Certain fans may tune into the Pro Bowl, but NFL award voters certainly do not. All in all, it was a decent game: watch the highlights and it wasn't as bad as some make it seem. For those of you that don't care, are at the end of this article and still won't watch the Pro Bowl: oh well, go have another left over chicken wing. You got your Super Bowl. But for those of you that do appreciate it, go have the previous "fans" chicken wing, you deserve it.

Pot appeal: the questionable stigmatization of Mary J today

By: John Arvanitis

It can certainly enhance a good time if controlled and done in small doses. However, when taken in excess, this drug can lead to many disturbing things such as addiction, belligerent behavior and even times of blackout with no recollection of the user's actions. Its excessive use has been known to ruin families by turning users into physical and emotional abusers. When in this altered state of consciousness, people's creativity is not bolstered. They are either overly active and obnoxious or beyond sluggish and completely unaware of their surroundings. When users of this drug operate vehicles, they put their own galize the recreational or medical use of marijuana. It is an appeal to reason. I am simply presenting the question: Why does our modern society stigmatize marijuana so badly when in fact any argument made against marijuana can be also said about alcohol (and often to a greater extent)? Why do so many people cringe when they hear about someone they know getting high, but when that same friend is drunk three nights in a row they may find it amusing? I'm not saying one offence is worse than the other. I am explicitly stating that there is an obviously hypocritical societal view of cannabis.

The modern stigma of marijuana can be traced back to the early 20th century. Opiates like cocaine and heroin were greatly scrutinized and feared by the public. Marijuana was quickly added to the list of deplorable substances in the public eye. Much like cocaine and heroin, cannabis was portrayed as a drug used by the "dangerous population". In addition, newspapers in the early 1920s were reporting prostitutes, gamblers, immigrants and criminals as avid marijuana users. This notion worked to confirm public opinion of this allegedly detrimental drug. Popular media also portrayed mary j as the "new drug menace" that would certainly lead the modern youth to addiction, deviant sexual acts and even insanity. Govemment also played a pivotal role in the early stigmatization of reefer. Even before the prohibition of ganja in 1937, state and local governments were enacting laws that attempted to control the distribution of marijuana. Once happy grass was made illegal, many states classified it as a "narcotic" and imposed heavy penalties on its users similar to laws pertaining to cocaine and heroin.

With little conclusive scientific research and heavy opposition from popular media and the govemment, it is easy to see how pot has remained to be seen as an enigmatic and dangerous drug. What is hard to understand is that there are reams of scientific evidence against ingesting alcohol that was prohibited years ago just like pot was. So why is alcohol taken so lightly by our culture and even glorified by television shows movies and commercials? There are a host of reasons that lead to this thought process but I'll only address a few.

First off, alcohol is seen as a more social drug than cannabis. People tend to think that when someone is intoxicated at a party, that person is more likely to interact and be social. Whereas the "pot heads" in the room would be more introverted and isolated. This, in some aspects, can be true, but how social is the erratic drunkard? Moreover, is the boozer even coherent or approachable? The same thing can be said for someone who is ridiculously high. They're most likely not very responsive and spacey. In other words, neither drug when used in excess heightens social interaction. However, when each drug is implemented moderately in the proper atmosphere, they can work to make a night more interesting or eventful. Clearly, calling one drug more social than the other is just a plain fallacy.

The second, and probably most influential, issue pertains to the legal status of pot. Obviously recreational use of hash is strictly prohibited while some states permit its medicinal use. Marijuana is seen as an inherently wrong thing to do simply because it's illegal to obtain or use. If people see something that their "trustworthy" goveming body doesn't approve of, they may be inclined to blindly trust its judgment and even advance the govemment's agenda. This fact allows alcohol to be seen as a more favorable substitute since its use is legalized with no age limit to who can consume and carry it. Oh yeah, I forgot, there is a legal drinking age of 21 that is fervently enforced in this country.

Lastly, cannabis is still seen as a drug that is used by the "dangerous population". Mary Jane is notoriously called the gateway drug and is often leads to further, heavier drug use... right? Marijuana creates this atmosphere of immorality that is matched only by its users' lack of priorities and moral compass... correct? Doesn't it seem a bit strange that we attribute life choices like further drug use and immorality with a controlled substance that is optional to use? My point is that it isn't the effects of pot on the people or the marijuana itself that creates this atmosphere, it's the people. Citizens consciously make decisions about what they partake in, so it's a bit foolish to blame ganja for atypical pot smokers' decisions. Essentially, just because some marijuana users are into harder drugs doesn't mean that they all are.

All rhetoric, opinions and emotions aside, let us just look at some famous friends of cannabis according to veryimportantpotheads.com. George Washington got wasted. Sir Richard Branson blazes. George Orwell took a few bong hits in his day. Bill Gates got at some ganja during his college years. George Clooney cooks. Carl Sagan smoked. Even the beloved Queen Victoria from across the pond had a personal physician that found pot useful for, "...treating menstrual cramps, dysmenorrhea, migraine, neuralgia, epileptic convulsions, and senile insomnia."

My point is not to glorify recreational toking or to whine about popular culture. All I'm asking is for the public to apply the same critical thinking about marijuana to alcohol, cocaine, caffeine or whatever your drug of choice may be. Once this is done, I believe that more people would come to a better understanding of this plant and possibly reach a more moderate view on this relatively harmless hallucinogen.

IF YOU HAVE AN OPPOSING OPINION OR WOULD LIKE YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD PLEASE SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THEWESTERNERSN@YAHOO.COM OR JOIN ONE OF OUR MEETINGS HELD TUESDAYS AT 7P.M IN RIVERS 105.

Sports

Winter Sports Update

By: Anthony Camardi

The winter season has brought many ups and downs to the Golden Bears. However, all teams have shown great resiliency as the seasons get towards their respective ends. While the men's ice hockey and women's basketball team are both on the verge of the playoffs, the men's basketball team is fighting hard for the final playoff spot in the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC).

After a brief three game losing streak the men's ice hockey team was under .500 for the first time since being 0-1 at the very beginning of the year. These losses all came on the road against Westfield State University 4-3 in overtime, getting swept in the season series 0-2, Wentworth 4-1, splitting the season series 1-1, and Nichols 5-1, who they finish the season with at home at Smead Arena in Springfield, Mass. on February 18th at 7:00 PM. Following the losing streak the Golden Bears have won two straight against Becker 4-3 and against Curry in a convincing 10-3 stomping. The team is now back over .500 at 11-10, three more wins than they had all of last year with four games to go to improve on that record in the hopes of a first round home playoff game. Three of these games will be at home. Other than Nichols, which is the season finale, WNE will play Johnson & Wales, who they have split two games with thus far, Salve Regina, who they are looking to sweep in two attempts, and Suffolk who they beat earlier this year 9-1.

Image: wnegoldenbears.com

They currently sit tied for fourth with Nichols with an ECAC Northeast Conference record of 6-4, three games ahead of sixth place Becker and four games against seventh place Salve Regina. One more conference victory ensures the Golden Bears of their second playoff appearance in as many years. It would also give them high hopes of a first round home game. To add more incentive to these final four games WNE can clinch a possible first round bye if they win the final four contests and have a definite home game in the postseason.

The women's basketball team is in a similar position as they have won 5 games in a row and 9 out of their last 11 going into the final stretch of the regular season. This coming after they began the year with 2 wins in their first 10 games. They have certainly turned it around, are above .500 at 11-10 and are now bound for the playoffs playing for seeding the rest of the way. The final four games for women's basketball include Curry at home, who they are looking to sweep, at Eastern Nazarene, who beat them earlier this year in a close match up, Roger Williams at home, who they beat convincingly earlier this year, and finishing at the University of New England, who beat them easily in one of the teams first games coming off of the winter break.

The Lady Golden Bears currently sit tied for second in the CCC with Salve Regina and Endicott with a conference record of 10-4. With this record they are optimistic about having a first round home game for the CCC playoffs against a lower seed. They have already clinched a playoff berth and cannot finish lower than sixth in the conference this season. This will be the Lady Golden Bears' third straight conference playoff appearance.

The men's basketball team has not had such good fortune this year with a young developing team, but they are still in the hunt for the eighth and final playoff spot in the CCC. It has been a year where the Golden Bears have competed admirably resulting in a handful of heartbreaking loses. They currently have a record of 7-14, which is an improvement from last years 4-21 mark. They are currently one game out of a playoff spot in ninth place behind the University of New England with four conference games left to try and punch their ticket to the post season for the second time in three years. Waiting in the shadows for the Golden Bears is their next opponent, the Curry College Colonels who beat them earlier this year. This game will be a home game held at the Alumni Healthful Living Center on Wednesday February 8th at 5:30 PM.

If you are interested in WNE sports and would like to contribute to the Westerner please contact us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com or join us at one of our meetings held Tuesdays at 7 pm in Rivers 105

Golden Bear Athletic Results*

Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Men's Ice Hockey	Women's Swimming	Wrestling
Wins: 7	Wins: 11	Wins: 11	Wins: 2	Wins: 3
Losses: 14	Losses: 10	Losses: 10	Losses: 8	Losses: 8
Conference Play: 4-10	Conference Play: 10-4	Conference Play: 6-4		

*All results as of 2/6/2012

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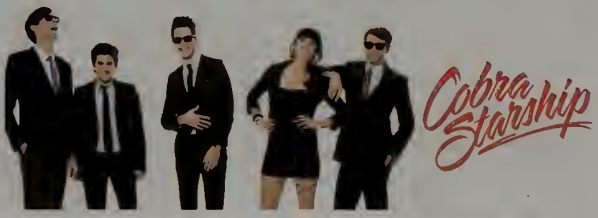
Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Cobra Starship announced to play Spring Event concert

By: Sarah Wiles



Cabra Starship performing spring event cancert at Western New England University

Image: Cobra Starship

On Wednesday, February 15, 2012, the Spring Event Committee announced that this year's Spring Event performers will be Cobra Starship.

Formed in 2003 out of New York City, Cobra Starship is a rock group that, in recent years, has incorporated pop into their music, getting them on the charts for singles like "Good Girls Go Bad" and "You Make Me Feel..." They released their first album *While the City Sleeps, We Rule the Streets* in 2006, featuring the single "Snakes on a Plane," and their second album in 2007 *Viva la Cabra!* In 2009, their album *Hat Mess* brought enormous commercial success, with the single "Good Girls Go Bad" featuring Leighton Meester, followed by their 2011 album *Night Shades*", which includes their current hit "You Make Me Feel..."

This year's release was unique in that it was announced over WNEK, Western New England University's radio station. Western New England students gathered to hear the exciting news at 5:00 Wednesday evening in the Campus Center. "The release over the radio was fabulous," stated Spring Event Chairperson, Kaylee McDonald. "I loved that it was completely media-oriented this year."

Keep your eyes open for ticket sales starting within the next few weeks for this year's exciting Spring Event, Cobra Starship.

RHA Dream Date auctions off students for charity

By: Alexandra Carter

Keith Lipinski madels as his Dream Date character

Image: Alexandra Carter

On Friday, February 10, 2012, the Residence Hall Association hosted its annual Dream Date fundraiser. Students volunteered to be auctioned off to their peers to raise money for charity. This year's collection was split between two organizations: Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and another charity that has yet to be determined. MADD was chosen as a recipient charity by the conference staff of Rhode Island College, which will be hosting RHA's Mini No-Frills conference this year. The other charity will be chosen next November at the regional conference.

RHA raised $1,366 through its Dream Date fund-raiser. Sophomore Matt Amaral and Junior Jessica Koontz were auctioned off for the highest bid. They raised $150 for the event. Approximately $300 was raised before the event began by collecting $1 from students who wanted to buy a flower for their favorite date. Sophomore duo Emily Dubuc and Ruth Berben received the most flowers. The money raised through the flower sales benefitted NRHH, the National Residence Hall Honorary.

About 250 students attended Friday's event. Twenty-five different dream dates were auctioned off, some consisting of one student and others two. A song of the student's choosing was played as each individual made his or her way up to the stage. Many students created skits or dances, or came onto the stage in character. They were interviewed for fun facts, such as their favorite pick-up line or idea of a perfect date, which was displayed in the background.

Senior student Keith Lipinski was one such participant. "It was very nice seeing all these people come together for the greater good of the community and getting to see some of the special skills of people on campus and how little shame they really have," said Lipinski, still acting like his nerdy Dream Date character.

The show was hosted by WNE's own Dr. Lynn Bowes-Sperry, who has gained recognition over past months for auditioning for the television show America's Got Talent. Bowes-Sperry, who is an Associate Professor of Management, is known for her comedic rapping act and trademark song "Ice Ice Coffee".

"It was a lot of fun!" she said about Dream Date. "It was nice to interact with students outside of class. I think I'll go next year, see how much I can bring in!"

As the night came to a close, students excitedly discussed the evening's event. "It was a great experience, no matter who you are," sophomore student Jacob Eastman remarked. Eastman supported RHA and the charities by bidding on his friends.

Student and RHA executive board member Steph Hart acknowledged that this was "one of the most entertaining" dream date auctions that she had ever seen.

Continued on page 2

News & Entertainment

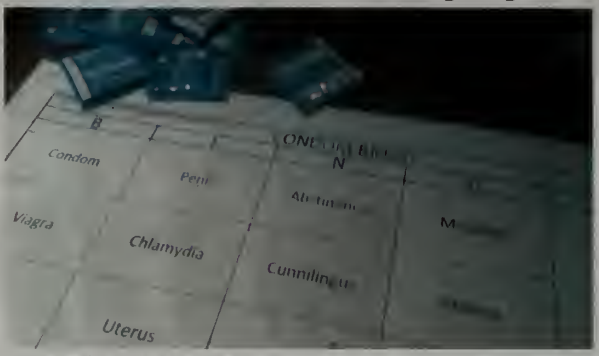
PEN hosts annual Condom Bingo night

By: Andrea Melone

As usual, PEN's annual Condom Bingo was a popular and entertaining event on February 10. PEN, the Peer Education Network, attracted a wide number of students to the uniquely amusing game night.

The name alone sparks interest; the advertising was even more intriguing. PEN had a table in the campus center with pamphlets and quizzes. One quiz was a simple true or false questionnaire to test students' knowledge on sexual education; the second was a contest to guess the number of condoms in a large bowl. Those who took either quiz were given an opportunity to be entered into a raffle to win another prize. The informational brochures came in bags, with a free condom.

The night itself was popular. Students could buy T-shirts advertising the event for $3 and then be entered into a raffle for a $50 Peppas gift card. Then, winners at rounds of bingo received various gift cards and prizes, including some sexually explicit goodies.



Condom bingo board arouses interest
Image: Hannah Berling

However, what made the event particularly amusing were the games themselves. True to the name, condoms were the bingo chips. Then, instead of numbers and letters, players had to have certain rows or columns including lists of vulgar sexual terms. Some of the milder were "intercourse," and "relationship," while others would be deemed obscene at other events.

"Its appropriately inappropriate," said Senior Keith Lipinski, a lucky winner at the event. "There are not many other public situations where someone is yelling out words like pornography, penis, or poontang, and it is completely okay. Also, it is the only place that I have been that people are happy enough to cheer that they have syphilis or herpes."

"I had a blast at Condom Bingo with my friends and the hosts were hilarious calling out the words!" Sophomore Jenny Woo stated, who attended the event. For instance, the hosts not only called out such explicit terminology into a microphone, but for "Chlamydia", anyone who had the space on their board were asked to stand up and clap. Or, those who had "orgasm" were told to moan if they had the word.

"Everyone was so enthusiastically saying we want a word to show up without thinking of the literal meaning, such as scrotum or horny," Woo continued. Amid the laughter, students could be heard telling each other specific anatomy were "in the wrong spots" on their board, or else complaining about either having or not having such parts.

The games, while thoroughly entertaining, were also meant to inform students. The booklets at the table as well as the quizzes were intended to educate those who wanted to attend the event. Aside from giving information, the event obviously provided an easy opportunity for safe sex for a lot of students.

"I think it went very well; I think we had a great attendance," said Senior Jackie Buczkowski, PEN president. "We still have some shirts left so if any one is looking to buy one they can e-mail PeerEducationNetwork.WNE@gmail.com. They are $3!"

Dream Date cont. from first page.

Hart is one of about sixty, RHA members on campus. These students are elected to the residence hall governing body by their peers. Throughout the year, they put on activities and events on campus and also go to conferences to meet with residence hall associations at other schools.

Student and RHA Programming Chair Cassandra Deal, who organized the event with National Communications Coordinator Taryn Sidney and the rest of RHA, reflected on the success of the show. Thinking back on the participants and how many of them put on a performance in order to raise more money, Deal stated "it's just really cool to me to see all the creative gimmicks people come up with and how someone can start out being really shy about it and they end up blowing the crowd away."

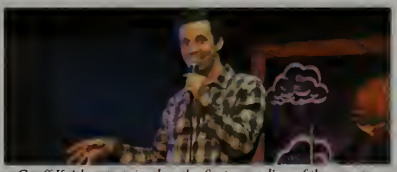
Geoff Keith performs at Western New England

By: Kaylene Hersey

If someone had walked by the Rock Café at 8 pm Saturday night, the 18, they would have wondered what all the laughter was from. The answer, of course, would have come a few seconds later since that person would have been the next object of scrutiny for comedian Geoff Keith.

The comedian came to Western New England on February 11th. Campus Activities Board (CAB) put on the event, which began a little bit after eight and Keith kept the audience entertained for about an hour, not allowing more than a few seconds of silence between the out bursts of laughter.

Geoff Keith, known for his appearance as an actor on MTV's "Disaster Date", has been touring the country to colleges and clubs to perform. Western New England was just another stop on his trip, but he sure was a pleasure to have on campus.



Geoff Keith entertained as the first comedian of the smester.
Image: Jenny Woo

He started off the night with what appeared to be rehearsed jokes. It was not until he stopped randomly, distracted by something in the audience, that everyone realized how funny he really was.

A girl in the front row had just opened her phone to answer a text and he demanded that she read the text out loud. She refused, but he did not give up that easily. He surveyed the audience to see how many people wanted her to read the text. Everyone raised their hands, but still, she would not read the text. The best part was when she finally did read the message out loud; it only said "Hey." So Keith then started guessing who the person was that sent the text.

He switched it up from rehearsed jokes and stories to more improvisation throughout the night. One of the jokes was about visiting Europe and how Europeans must hate Americans. So naturally, he had a brilliant response.

"Then take Jay-Z out of your headphones. Walk out of McDonalds, and the shut the (expletive) up," Keith said.

Another story he told was from third grade. His parents taught him the more polite way to say certain words, using "crap" or "butt" instead of the alternative. His parents also taught him that instead of using the word "fart," he was supposed to say "boop." Needless to say, his parents never told him that "boop" was not an actual word, and he found out in class after a kid had farted. His parents laughed when hearing he actually said "boop", and he then said his first cuss word. The audience could not stop laughing from this joke and many of his others from the night. It was a great night put on by C.A.B.

ENTERTAINMENT

Titanic 3D Movie Review

By: Cara Federici

I cannot imagine a better way to spend Tuesday, February 14 than embarking on a spontaneous Boston-bound adventure to experience the pre-screening of Titanic in 3D at Loews' Theatre with one of my roommates. Most individuals ask why any remotely sane human being would want to see the film for a second time, let alone in 3D, but I have to inquire, how could you not want to see Leonardo DiCaprio circa 1997 in 3D?

Numerous negative opinions of the film starring the ever so wonderful DiCaprio and Kate Winslet were expressed instantly on fellow movie-goers' faces when the occasional stop at the long line of patiently waiting fans involved the same scenario. Passerby X would ask, "what movie are you waiting in this long line for?" Eager individuals in line responded, "Titanic 3D!" thus cuing passers-by to laugh at the long line of fans ranging from about thirteen to sixty years of age before merrily exiting the gigantic theatre.

Despite the lack of interest in Titanic, I'm fairly certain Passerby X would have had an incredible pre-screening experience. After waiting for about an hour, tickets were scanned simultaneously as we were each handed white goodie bags with TITANIC 3D printed in gold on the side. Each bag consisted of one black T-shirt with the movie poster's photo printed on the front, a souvenir boarding pass for the Titanic, a voucher for a free small drink and popcorn combo, and the most vital goodie: the golden 3D glasses with "Titanic 3D" printed on one side. Gazing at our goodies almost made us forget that being close to the front of the line meant that we were able to pick awesome seats in the theater, smack dab in the middle, not too far away, but not too close so that you could see up Leo's nose.

Upon walking into the theater, we were greeted by a live violin quartet playing songs from the film's soundtrack. I never thought that I would hear "My Heart Will Go On" anywhere besides in the actual movie or in my shower, but now I have heard a violinist's take on the well-known song and I am completely content.

Titanic 3D opens in theaters April 4th
Image: Chantel Branco

After a few words from the host of the evening, the movie skipped previews and immediately took us back to 1912 when the Titanic took its first and last voyage. I am an avid 3D skeptic because it is very difficult to spend the same amount of money on a 3D film as I can on a decent quesadilla at Bueno y Sano (with guacamole and chips included), but this film was worth every spontaneous minute of traveling and will be worth viewing come April 4, 2012 when the film will be officially released in theaters.

DiCaprio is one of the perks of the film, but following the particular stories of fictional characters on-board gives viewers the opportunity to connect with Titanic's tragic expedition in history. It is heartbreaking to imagine how individuals had to live through the ship sinking, but I think that writer and director James Cameron did a decent job at portraying fictional lives of individuals living in a tragic tale.

As a kid, the beginning of the film was never my favorite part. I thought it was boring and I wanted to skip straight to the scene where Leo saves Rose from jumping ship; the 3D experience made it feel like I was swimming underwater with the cameras and discovering new artifacts from the ship. There were not many elements of the film that "popped out" as a 3D movie would suggest, but the dimensions made me feel like I was actually part of the excursion.

In either version, my favorite part of the movie remains the scene where Jack asks Rose, "So, you want to go to a real party?" preceding Gaelic Storm's song "An Irish Party in Third Class". The song is wonderful and the dancing is carefree and lighthearted; however, after seeing the 3D version, I am rather fond of the opening and conclusion of the film because of the breathtakingly clear underwater images of the bubbles and ocean life floating alongside the submerged camera and sunken ship.

The 3D version will be worth watching on April 4th not only for the amazing imagery and Leonardo's face circa 1997, but for the fact that April 15 is the 100th anniversary of the ship's departure. After this 3D experience, individuals will certainly never let go.

Oscar preview and predictions

By: Hannah Berling

The Oscars are almost upon us. The red carpet will be rolled out on February 26, and all eyes will be tuned to ABC at 7pm to see all the best in film of 2012. As an award show junky myself (while I will admit I have not seen all the nominated movies), I have set forth to predict who will win what, along with who I think should win.

Best Picture Nominees: *The Artist*, *The Descendants*, *Extremely Laud and Incredibly Clase*, *The Help*, *Maneyball*, *Huga*, *Midnight in Paris*, *The Tree af Life*, and *War Horse*.

Who will win: *The Artist*. This movie has already proven to be the film to beat at both the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards. It has shown that even in 2012, a silent movie still has the capacity to capture audiences and critics.

Who should win: *The Help*. Don't get me wrong, as a baseball geek, I loved *Moneyball*, but *The Help* captured my heart. The film is the perfect blend of humor, sassiness, and drama, along with incredible acting and directing.

Best Actor in a Leading Role Nominees: Demian Bichir (*A Better Life*), George Clooney (*The Descendants*), Jean Dujardin (*The Artist*), Gary Oldman (*Tinker Tailar Saldier Spy*), Brad Pitt (*Maneyball*).

Who will win: Jean Dujardin. While I don't think it is fair for an actor in a silent movie to take home this award, this is the movie everyone is talking about right now and he is the lead actor. It all seems inevitable.

Who should win: Brad Pitt. Pitt captured the dynamic personality of Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane perfectly in what was easily the sports film of the year. In a movie that is more dialogue than true action, Pitt was able to keep viewers hooked and engaged.

Best Actress in a Leading Role Nominees: Glenn Close (*Albert Nabbs*), Viola Davis (*The Help*), Rooney Mara (*The Girl with the Dragan Tattaa*), Meryl Streep (*The Iran Lady*), Michelle Williams (*My Week with Marilyn*).

Who will (and should) win: Viola Davis. Davis seems to be the only one surprised at the attention she has gotten from her role as Aibileen Clark, but after playing a character with so much depth and emotion, it is easy for everyone else to understand.

Best Actor in a Supporting Role Nominees: Kenneth Branagh (*My Week with Marilyn*), Jonah Hill (*Moneyball*), Nick Nolte (*Warrior*), Christopher Plummer (*The Beginners*), Max von Sydow (*Extremely Laud and Incredibly Clase*).

Who will win: Christopher Plummer. While many people may not be familiar with *The Beginners*, Plummer has already captured the Golden Globe and now looks posed to add an Oscar to his collection.

Who should win: Jonah Hill. Let's face it, this kid has come such a long way since *Superbad* and it is about time that he is rewarded for it.

Best Animated Feature Film Nominees: *A Cat in Paris*, *Chica and Rita*, *Kung Fu Panda 2*, *Puss in Baats*, *Ranga*.

Who will win: *A Cat in Paris*. Why? None of us have ever heard of it.

Who should win: *Puss in Baots*. Two words. Antonio Banderas.

Best Cinematography Nominees: *The Artist*, *Huga*, *The Girl with the Dragan Tattao*, *The Tree af Life*, and *War Harse*.

Who will (and should) win: *The Artist*. In a movie that includes no dialogue, the cinematography has to be spot on, and although I have not yet seen the movie, word on the street is that it is pretty amazing.

So, go make some picks of your own and see if your favorite movies of 2011 come out on top at the Oscars this year.

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Good Vibrations: The Civil Wars music review

By: Cara Federici

"You're my favorite song, always on the tip of my tongue" chants Joy Williams, one half of the wholeheartedly wonderful duo, The Civil Wars, during their song "Tip of My Tongue" off of their *Poison and Wine EP*. Nashville resident Williams and her Alabama born partner, John Paul White, combine their simply raw vocals with a rustic guitar to create a unique and unforgettable sound.

After stumbling across their band when randomly surfing some music pages, I wondered why and how I had never heard of The Civil Wars before. I quickly downloaded their free album released in the summer of 2009 titled *Live from Eddie's Attic* off of their website thecivilwars.com. The free album is still readily available and I would not hesitate to download it, because the live versions of songs "Poison and Wine", and personal favorites "20 Years" and "Tip of My Tongue" are possibly better than the studio-recorded versions available on other albums. I prefer a raw acoustic performance over a studio version any day.

The Civil Wars with their two Grammy wins on Feb. 12th
Image: Rick Diamond/WireImage.com at thecivilwars.com

The homely, springy version of "20 Years" welcomes new listeners while "Poison and Wine" makes fans stop and think while Williams and White play equally with guitar and heartstrings alike. "Poison and Wine" is heartwrenching to listen to among some of the other beautifully meloncholic songs on the EP that I have had on repeat for days.

I was pleasantly pleased while watching the Grammy's last Sunday, February 12, when The Civil Wars played a short verse prior to introducing their friend, Taylor Swift, whom the duo performs the track "Safe and Sound" with on the soundtrack to the new flick, *The Hunger Games*.

The duo is currently touring over seas and their shows are beginning to sell out on numerous occasions. Keep an eye peeled for local dates appearing later on this summer upon their return to the U.S. Their full-length album *Barton Hollow*, the EP, and free live album are a wonder for ears. Not to mention the single purchase of "Barton Hollow" available featuring a beautiful rendition of Jimmie Davis' "You are My Sunshine" which reveals the heavy-hearted emotions behind the normally happy song that are also for sale on the duo's website. With such emotionally lucid songs, The Civil Wars will remain lovely with their beautiful folk ballads in the music industry forever.

Book Review: The Hunger Games

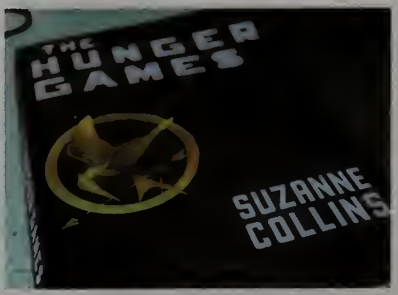
By: Hannah Berling

Imagine you are between the ages of 12 and 18, you have just been randomly chosen to be pulled from your family, taken to a strange place, forced to train to fight for your life, and then thrown into an arena full of traps and 23 other adolescents trying to kill you. Oh yeah this is all happening while your loved ones watch on national television too.

It's hard to imagine right? Katniss Everdeen, the 16-year-old protagonist of *The Hunger Games*, is living this situation and the first person narrative of the books throws the reader directly into her thoughts.

The first book of Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* trilogy, *The Hunger Games* (which will premiere as a motion picture on March, 23rd) is a tale of love, loss, and psychological mind games.

The book is set far off in the future, in an area known as Panem (formerly North America) where the capitol keeps the nations twelve districts "in line" by forcing adolescents, one boy and one girl from each district, into the Hunger Games, a fight to the death on national television.



Read the novel that has everyone begging for more
Image: Hannah Berling

The reader becomes so engulfed in Katniss' thoughts, as she is put in the Games along with male tribute Peeta, that it is very easy to feel the emotions that she, as a character is feeling.

Every time you think you can just stop at the end of a chapter, you can't. There is cliffhanger after cliffhanger making the book nearly impossible to put down. Throughout the book, you are tugged along while Katniss and the other tributes' (the name given to those picked to fight to the death) bond, but remember, that only one of them can come out alive.

The most compelling aspect of this book is how much the story line makes you think. Every time Katniss makes her next move you are left to wonder what you would do if put in her shoes. How would you react knowing that the only way you could stay alive would be to kill someone your age or even younger? To kill someone who has the same motives going on in their head that are in yours? To kill someone's son, someone's daughter or someone's sibling?

The book ends in the same manner as every chapter, with the reader wanting more. This is not the type of book that you go into thinking you will only read book one, because once the phrase, "End of book one." appears on the final page you are ready for book two, *Catching Fire* and once that is done all you can focus on is book three, *Mockingjay*.

Features

Of The Month Awards

By: Amanda DeCosta

Although it's past the February 1 deadline to submit January OTMs, it's not too late to recognize the amazing things that happened in December.

For the Month of December, the following are our Campus Winning OTMs: Advisor: Jill Brooks, Executive Board Member: Taryn Sidney, First Year Student: Will Dwinells, Resident Advisor: Elizabeth Goldschein, Spotlight: Grilled Cheese Night, Student: Hannah Berling

Congratulations to those winning recipients. If you have any questions about how to submit OTMs, tips on writing a winning OTM, or any questions about NRHH, please send them to the Maureen Keizer Chapter e-mail at keizerNRHH@gmail.com. Until the next issue – Happy Writing!

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Not only are we looking for writers, we are also looking to fill some E-board positions including the **Features Section Editor** and **Online Section Editor**. If you're of age and wish to continue the **Beer Review**, or just want to contribute an **opinion piece**, **column** or **comic strip**, we could use your talent!

If you have any other fresh ideas for the paper, or would like to work on other portion such as layout, come to our meetings

Tuesdays at 7:00PM in Rivers 105

Also keep in mind that working on the Westerner can be used as an LBC.

If you are interested in The Westerner please email us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com or stop by at one of our meetings.

What's new in D'Amour Library

Check out some of the new materials available:

Books:

- Caleb's Crossing- Geraldine Brooks
- A Game of Thrones- George R. R. Martin
- The Invisible Bridge- Julie Orringer

CDs:

- Glee the 3D Concert Movie Soundtrack (2011)
- Neil Young's Greatest Hits (1999)

DVDs:

- Blank Check (2003)
- Bridesmaids (2011)
- Crazy, Stupid, Love (2011)
- Insidious (2011)

Television shows:

- Boy Meets World (Seasons 1-4)
- Breaking Bad (Seasons 1-2)
- Desperate Housewives (Complete series)
- Numb3rs (Complete series)
- Supernatural (Seasons 1-4)

Audio books:

- The Affair- Lee Child
- Bossypants – Tina Fey
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone- J.K. Rowling

Audio books are located in the D'Amour Library lobby!

Don't see anything that tickles your fancy?
Don't forget you can always fill out request forms at the Circulation Desk!

Also follow @Damourlibrary for more library updates!

Corrections

In the last edition of the Westerner, the article concerning the WNEK information, which was said to be written by Hannah Berling, was written by Michael Moschella.

Also, be on the lookout for fliers advertizing our new website, where the previous issue of the Westerner will be viewable, including corrections made to the opinion piece regarding the stigma attached to marijuana, and other sections.

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

Follow these three basic green tips:

Reduce: This can be as simple as trying to reduce the amount of electricity you use, and avoid wasting water. You could also watch what you buy, and purchase goods with less plastic (hint: avoid individually wrapped items). Try to stop wasting whenever possible.

Reuse: Just because you've used a notebook once doesn't mean you have to get rid of it! The unused paper will be helpful elsewhere, and the no one will mind you using a statistics notebook in your chemistry class next semester. Also, you can reuse bags, clothes, etc. The possibilities of what can be reused are almost endless.

Recycle: As always, recycle your paper, cans, bottles, cell phones, etc, wherever possible. Recycle bins for such items can be found around campus and in some residence halls. Please don't throw it out because it's more convenient.

Want to see these tips to the extreme? Check out the website for a funky place called Gasoline Alley (gasolinealleyfoundation.org)! They recycle and reuse whatever they can, creating new out of the old, like a table made out of a lane from an old bowling alley!

Opinion

State of the Union: a different approach

By: Anonymous

The purpose of the State of the Union address is to provide an update to Congress and the rest of the nation in effect as to how the country has changed over the last year. The president, during his latest State of the Union address, did just that; as a President seeking re-election, he also included what will likely continue to become his Campaign platform. While I agree that the president should not focus his speech on why it would be good to be re-elected, I do believe that it is intrinsic that given the opportunity for a politician, to remind the nation of his accomplishments, he will do so. It is only natural for him to take the opportunity to speak to the entire country and make his case, which for some will be the last time they will pay attention to the president during the upcoming year.

While there is much debate as to who deserves the lion's share of the blame for the current economic situation, the fact of the matter is that the economy tanked under President Bush and was unable to be stopped in the few remaining months of his presidency. When President Obama took office, it took several weeks and months for his cabinet to come into office and be able to effectively enact policies to halt the downfall of the great American Economy. For anyone to expect that within the first month of being in office to see a massive economy return to its height after a new leader takes over is simply wishing for the impossible.

Now that we are three years into the current president's term, we look back and say the economy has not gotten a lot better, yet it also has stopped getting worse. Frankly, I would rather be in an economy that I know was bad but could get better soon rather than one which still is collapsing. The statistics show that within the first six months of President Obama taking office, the economy stopped seeing record layoffs each month, and while smaller scale layoffs continue today, there are also reports indicating that companies are expecting to hire large numbers of people within the next year. The Unemployment rate went from close to 10% to now being close to 8%. While this may only seem like a small number and that many more Americans are still out of work, it is also good to keep in mind that we live in a fairly large country with over 300 million people (which means that roughly 6 million people are now either back to work or no longer interested in finding work).

It is also easy to forget that when the economy begins picking up momentum again, it does not return to the same areas that it left, rather, it moves into areas that it will find more beneficial. With that in mind, the majority of the Midwest portion of the United States used to be manufacturing hubs; now many of those jobs are moving closer to the coastal parts of the nation, add to that the fact that many people today are not only unwilling to move across the country for a job when they are older, it is also tougher for those that are unemployed to return to school and receive an education. Many businesses with openings right now believe that there are people out there that can fill their openings, that it is just a matter of obtaining the correct education and skill set, which can become more difficult as a person ages and gets settled in one area.

So how does all of this factor into whether the president is responsible for the economic recovery? Simply put, the economy is dependent upon so many factors that the role the government plays in it is relatively small in consideration to the other factors. While trade deals, stimulus packages, and other methods may be employed to help the economy expand or regulations be placed to ensure a standard of quality, the current economy is much more dependent upon the rest of the world recovering rather than just changing a few policies in the United States. While the President authorized the use of bailout funding for the car companies in the US, it should be noted that he did not actually write the law concerning 1 that was your elected congressman and senator that serves in Washington. While it can be debated as to how effective it was (all of the US auto makers are recovering and posting profits now, with the highest profits coming from Ford which refused the bailout funding), the bailout appears to have worked in its attempt to bring about the halting of an economic free-fall. We should also keep in mind that over the last few decades the economy has expanded in areas where there is no true production (pharmacy, law, investment, etc…). These areas add little in terms of consumable products and instead shift money around giving the appearance that the economy is doing well when really its producing component (the core of any industrial economy) has already decayed.

As to the situation surrounding the debt of our nation, yes, it is high and yes, it has gone up significantly during the time of President Obama, but we must keep ourselves aware of the simple fact that when economies such as ours begin to collapse, and when they are based largely on housing, the government must increase its spending in order to help save the economy and return it to viability. This is an easy thing to forget, especially when having high debt is horrible and voters want it reduced. Indeed it should be reduced, yet comparing the government to a person is illogical. The government is not a single family home down the road, but rather, is a compound that is not required to operate under the same guidelines on which the individual runs. Think about it: if you forget to pay your bills on a car or home, the bank will take it from you. If the government does not pay its bills, what happens? Not much really, since other nations that have our debt do not really have the ability to say "well since you cannot pay, I am taking California, or Florida, or sorry Federal government, but you cannot use your tax revenue until you pay". There is no true authority that can come in and take over the federal government, thus there is no "bank" that can foreclose on a peoples duly elected governmental authority.

Why is our debt so high? Well perhaps instead of saying that we should stop the programs that many people rely on, such as college loan subsidization or grants that many students on our campus use, we should take a look at our tax system. While there are many tax breaks and loopholes, the average citizen does not take advantage of these, and the vast majority of the country pays its share. Yet what kind of share is that? Well, most people only pay between 25 and 30% of their income in taxes and we still complain that it is much too high. Putting that in perspective, Americans used to pay roughly 90% of their income to the government nearly a century ago and got just as much out of it in terms of programs (and we were still heavily in debt, which our nation has always had). Not sure about you, but to me, when you decrease the amount people pay for services, and continue to grow the services that are provided to aid people, it seems like a gap will develop at some point, where you pay a lot less and get a lot more for your money. Sound like a good deal? It is, but it cannot last forever. The solution isn't really to reduce taxes, since we are only paying a third of what we should be for the same service, rather, it is to increase taxes on those that can sustain it (like many of those making over 200K a year). In addition to the potential need to raise taxes, we must also keep in mind that the country needs to bring back many of the manufacturing jobs that made America the economic powerhouse of the world. Most recently, this has begun to occur with the tax incentives that the Federal government has offered companies. Apple, which the previous author stated makes all of its products in China, is now moving hundreds of manufacturing jobs into the United States. Why? Because the same argument people said about America decades ago, that we cost too much to produce items, is occurring in China. Companies are now finding that it costs the same to create products and ship them to the US from China as it does to make in America and ship across the country. Several economists believe that by the year 2015, a full shift will have occurred in bringing companies back to the US for manufacturing.

Finally, there is an apparent lack of respect for the government and the leader's people elect to represent them. Why is there an issue with the criticism of the state of the union? Simply put, if you begin to decry a leader from the moment he or she is elected into office, then he or she will never be given the chance in your own eyes to prove his or her worth as a leader of the nation. We as a people are beginning to lack civility, both here on our own campus, but also in the vast society of America. When we see laws or regulations, as a people we tend to say that they are unnecessary and should be removed, but yet we fail to see the good that is being done by having those institutions in place. We must always keep in mind that the burdens placed upon those that lead are great, and that the respect that is given to them is few and far between. For the President, you can criticize him for many things, whether it be removing a dictator or terrorist leader "unlawfully" or signing a new law that affects mil-

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Opinion & Sports

Union Address cont. from sixth page

lions of Americans that need it. The president has fulfilled many of his promises, not all of them, mind you, but enough to earn our respect; he chose to spend his first term reforming a health care system that has had no true reform in at least 60 years, signed into law equal pay for equal work regardless of gender, ended Don't Ask Don't Tell, and much more. Yet as soon as one of these laws is signed, the public forgets, except those that believe our leaders fail at every turn since they refuse to compromise on some things and agree that compromising is the way our nation was founded, and is the only true way to move society forward.

In essence, what I am saying to everyone is that we must be mindful of factors outside our control, know our own history, and be willing to treat others with respect and give someone a chance. We are subject to the overall global environment in terms of our economy and debt; our history shows us how we can get things done, but also why we are in the situation we are in (such as the two World Wars) and giving leaders the respect that they deserve, but also the support they need to act in our interests. We must be able to vote for, or against, someone on election day, and then be able to fully support the winning candidate once the dust has settled, because they are the elected leaders that will work in our name regardless of if we voted for them or not. This means still voicing your concerns by writing to them or vocalizing your responses, but still being able to at the end of the day say I may disagree with everything you stand for, but you are my representative and I will support you. Is that really so much to ask for?

Valentine's Day thoughts

By: Hannah Berling

"Don't they have anything in here that isn't covered with stupid little hearts? Gross!" –*Glee*

2012 marked my 21st Valentine's Day single, and it is not just Valentine's Day: October 2011 marked my 21 year single. So, what does the holiday mark for the members of the "forever alone" club? Personally, I enter Singles Awareness Day through a few different stages every year.

Stage 1: "Aww look at all the cute stuff."

After the Christmas trees are taken down in the stores, pink fills the isles. In January, I walked through the store, looking at all the Valentine's items: candy, fluffy pillows and stuffed animals, plush blankets covered with hearts, and cheesy cards that sing love songs when you open them. At this stage it is all fun; everything is brightly colored and you have a strong desire to buy it all. Then you remember it is January. Then, once you have entered the store about a half a dozen times perusing the heart filled isles, stage two kicks in.

Stage 2: "Maybe this year."

Once you realize it would be too pathetic to buy some of the Valentine's products for yourself, your mind begins to enter "this is my year" mode. You tell yourself that no matter what, someone will turn up on your doorstep on February 14, holding flowers, or that stuffed animal you have been tempted to buy yourself, or even that cheesy card. You get lost in the hype of the upcoming holiday and the prospect of love. Yup, this is going to be your year… just kidding, stage three.

Stage 3: "Well, I still have my friends."

About half a week before the big day you finally snap back to reality and realize that no, prince charming just isn't coming around this year. So you decide to revert back to your childhood, back to the day of little cardboard valentines, back to when everyone was forced to give something to everyone else. You pick out that box of valentines meant for small children and prepare to hand them out to all your friends because you don't care, you are going to make the best of this day and just have fun with it. Then it happens, February 14… stage four.

Stage 4: "Gross."

You wake up on Valentine's Day thinking, "This will be okay; single on Valentine's isn't so bad." Then you walk out your door. All day, face girls carrying flowers, talking about the cute thing their boyfriend did, conversation hearts that state sweet gestures that you will not be receiving this year, and hearts: everywhere you look, hearts. Your little cardboard valentines for your friends just aren't enough and you take pride in seeing someone who has been rejected by a Valentine. The whole thought of love and a day where you should lay your feelings out on the line is just plain gross. There is one solution to turn your day around though: stage five.

Stage 5: "Mooch."

So, no boy bought you candy, no one made you a fancy supper or dessert; go find someone with extra. No one out there can eat all that candy, can finish every last bit of that chocolate slice of heaven that is a Valentine's dessert. Seek those small-stomached people out; see if maybe they will offer you some of their wealth. Soon, even without a boy, you may just be indulging in some of those Valentine's goodies you longed for.

Yes, I know what you are thinking, Valentine's Day is done, yet I am still ranting about this. Maybe it is the cynical perpetually single side of me that is still bitter about another February 14 spent alone, or maybe it is me using Valentine's as one day to break out of my optimistic mind-set and just be pessimistic for a few hours (or days). Either way, I know there are a few of you out there who hit stage four and five with me last week, so for those people: here's to you!

"And to all you singles out there, this is our year." -*Glee*

Despite Super Bowl loss, times are still good for Patriots fans

By: Pat O'Rourke

It has been an unprecedented time for Patriot fans.

The run that began ten years ago last Friday has included five superbowl appearances, three superbowl championships, and 9 playoff appearances. They became the only team to win its first 18 games in a season when they started out 18-0 in 2007.

Fans have grown accustomed to the "Patriot Way", coming from the philosophy of legendary head coach Bill Belichick, that no man is bigger than the team. Even with rosters that boasted All-Pros like Richard Seymour, Ty Law, Wes Welker, Adam Vinatieri, Logan Mankins, Matt Light, Vince Wilfork, Rob Gronkowski, Jerod Mayo, Randy Moss, Asante Samuel, and Tom Brady, among others.

But it hasn't always been this way. Actually, it had been fwar from it.

The franchise had humble beginnings. In fact, a humble first four decades.

From when the franchise began in 1960 to when Robert Kraft bought the team in 1994, the Pats made the playoffs six times—as many times as they did between 2001 and 2007. Their only super bowl appearance in that span was a 46-10 romping at the hands of the Chicago Bears.

As the centuries turned, however, so did the Patriots fortunes.

It began in 1999 when Bill Belichick resigned as the head coach of the New York Jets days after he replaced Bill Parcells. In the following days, he was named the 14 head coach in the history of the New England Patriots.

Less than two years later, with the Belichick era off to a 5-13 start, the team got a seemingly-fatal blow. On September 23, 2001, franchise quarterback Drew Bledsoe suffered a sheared blood vessel in his chest in a 10-3 loss to the New York Jets.

Bledsoe, however, would quickly go from Patriots immortal to the Patriots Wally Pipp. The following week, the Patriots would defeat the Indianapolis Colts 44-13, with quarterback Tom Brady starting his first NFL game under center. The Pats sixth round draft pick in 2000 went 13-23 for 168 yards, and didn't turn the ball over. And the rest is history.

Since Brady took over for the Patriots, he and Belichick have combined for 124 wins, the most by a coach-QB combination in NFL history. They've combined for a 16-6 record in the postseason, with three Superbowl victories in five Superbowls to show for it.

Brady's five Superbowls and 16 wins ties his childhood idol Joe Montana for the most all-time.

For the last decade, the Pats have made it look easy on the field.

But in the stands and in the living rooms throughout Patriot nation, it's been that much easier to watch.

Sports

WNE Hockey finishes the season strong, gears up for playoffs

By: Pat O'Rourke

When Coach Greg Heffernan signed on to be the WNE hockey team following the 2008-2009 season, his goal was to build a program that would compete for the ECAC Northeast crown.

"When I got here, we had a 3-20 team," Heffernan told the Westerner in an early-season interview. "We want to get to a point where we are 20-3."

In his third year, Heffernan and the Golden Bears are slowly inched their way toward that mark. Finishing the regular season, with a 13-11-1 record, with four wins, and one tie, in their last six games. It's the best record the team has had since the 1994 season. It is also an improvement from last season, when they went 8-17-1.

The Golden Bears tied Nichols in overtime on Saturday (2-2), clinching a home game in the upcoming ECAC Northeast playoffs, as they finished fourth in the division.

The stakes in the final game were similar to last year, when the Golden Bears faced a win-and-get-in game at Smead Arena against Suffolk. A Dan Monahan goal in extra-time lifted the Golden Bears into their first postseason since 2000.

But this is a much different Golden Bears team this season.

The Golden Bears have beaten the four out of the five other teams in the playoffs (Curry, Wentworth, J&W, and Becker) at least once this season. The most notable of the four being the ten-spot the Golden Bears win over on top-seeded Curry. Their overall record against the five teams is 5-5.

Sophomore John Kelly has come on strong in their recent surge, with 3 goals and 5 assists in the last six games*. All three goals have been game-winners. The first game-winner came in overtime against Becker in Marlborough, Mass. His hot-streak garnered ECAC Northeast player of the week honors.

A year after making the playoffs for the first time in 11 years, the Golden Bears get their second consecutive bid.

The first round of the playoffs will be on Saturday, February 25th at Smead Arena in Springfield, Mass.

*Statistics as of 2/18/12

The Golden Bears men's ice hockey team clinched their spot in the ECAC playoff with a tie against Nichols on Satruday February 18th.

Image: wnegaldenbears.com

If you are interested in WNE sports and would like to contribute to the Westerner please contact us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com or join us at one of our meetings held every other Tuesday at 7 pm in rivers 105

Winter athletic wrap-up and playoff outlook

Men's Basketball

Regular Season

Wins: 9

Losses: 16

Conference Play:

6-12

Playoff Outlook

The men's basketball team will play thier first playoff game on Tuesday, February 21st at 8:00pm versus Salve Regina in Newport, RI.

Women's Basketball

Regular Season

Wins: 13

Losses: 12

Conference Play:

12-6

Playoff Outlook

The women's basketball team will play their first playoff game on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00pm versus Eastern Nazarene at home.

Swimming

Regular Season

Wins:

Losses:

Championships

The best of the WNE swimming team swam in the NEISDA Championships February 18th and 19th in White River Junction, VT.

WNE Wrestling

Regular Season

Wins: 3

Losses: 11

Conference Play:

3-9

Championships

The best of the WNE wrestling team will wrestle in the New England Wrestling Association Championships February 25th and 26th in Middletown, CT.

Men's Ice Hockey

Regular Season

Wins: 13

Losses: 11

Ties: 1

ECAC Play:

8-5-1

Playoff Outlook

The men's hockey team will play their first playoff game Saturday, February 25th versus Johnson and Wales at home.

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The Westerner

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

WNE Mortar Board students promote excellence

By: Alex Lyman

Every year, Mortar Board hosts a "Visibility Week" to promote the organization, and its goals and values. This year, the Visibility Committee went above and beyond to make the group more visible than ever. From February 13 to 17, Mortar Board hosted a table in the St. Germain Campus Center.

In addition to selling a re-vamped version of the "I Rode the Golden Bear" T-shirts, Mortar Board offered a volunteer opportunity with the Gray House, a chance to make Valentine's cards, and different giveaways and prizes.

"Mortar Board is about scholarship, leadership, and service. To encompass those qualities the members of the visibility committee tried to have an activity or connection to one or more of those qualities," said Visibility Chair Jenna Delibac.

Now that Visibility Week is over, Mortar Board will be inducting new members to spread the message of Mortar Board.

That message is to

Continued on page 2

Visibility Week promotes Mortar Board
Image: Sara Garlick

The planning behind Spring Event continues

By: Annie Lake

As previously announced, Cobra Starship will be coming to perform for this year's Spring Event.

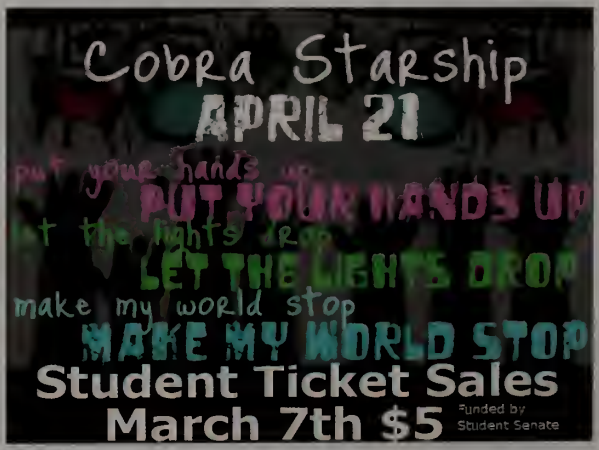
They may not have been the first choice by some of the student body, because they weren't listed on the original surveys. However, those who were initial options could not come because of complications. For instance, some were either touring in a different area, injured, or else not touring at all (Jason Derulo broke his neck), or for other extraneous reasons.

Cobra Starship was chosen because the songs are relatively popular; students on this campus have probably heard, sung along to, or danced to some of their songs. Their big radio hits are "Good Girls Gone Bad," and "You Make Me Feel..." The catchy "La, La, La, La, La, you make me feel so" line is instantly recognizable, whether listeners know the band's name or not.

This is where the Spring Event Publicity Committee comes in; they focus on encouraging the campus recognize Cobra Starship and start to really enjoy their music.

Cobra Starship's music style is diverse; it's hard to pinpoint their genre. This was one of the reasons the Spring Event Committee as a whole decided on Cobra Starship for Western New England, which has such a vast demographic of the type of music students like, and, since this is one of the few bands to incorporate so many genres into one.

Continued on page 2



Student Senate advertises Spring Event
Image: Spring Event Committee

News

WNE students attend LEADS Conference

By: Laura D'Angelo

On Friday, February 24, 2012 select WNE students attended the LEADS conference at the Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy. The program consisted of various sessions designed to enhance and develop students' leadership abilities.

The students went to three different one-hour sessions that they selected among options prior to the start of the program. In previous years, the LEADS conference has been geared toward upperclassmen. This year's program allowed students from any class to be nominated to attend.

The sessions held included topics regarding social change, personal finances, managing office politics, and more. Guest speakers and faculty collaborated to give students beneficial information to help them with their leadership roles.

One session, entitled "Capitalizing on Leadership Skills", focused on the ways in which a student benefits from his or her leadership role on campus. WNE Career Counselors Maria Cokotis and Loris Epps explained how to integrate leadership skills into a resume so that a student is more valuable to potential employers. They also discussed the importance of a cover letter, proper preparation for an interview, and the power of a social media website known as LinkedIn.

Melani Butcher, a junior finance major, explained how the LEADS sessions motivated her in her role as a leader on campus. "I will maintain my student leader image because LEADS helped me realize how much of a role model I am to others," she said.

The LEADS program emphasized the significance of being involved with the campus community and how it improves a student's image, not just to future employers, but to all other individuals as well.

"I think it's important to be a student leader because it is a better chance for your voice to be heard. Plus, you can become even more involved in activities that you love. You have to ability to become more that just a spectator," Butcher said.

Butcher is not alone in her motivation to be a role model and leader on campus. This was made obvious by the attendance at the LEADS program. By engaging in an event such as this one, students are taking just another step to becoming a leader in the future and excel at whatever they do. These students proved that they wanted to become "more than just a spectator" in their own lives.

Come support New England Brass on Thursday, April 5

Are classes stressing you out? Are you getting nervous for midterms? Well, what better way to relax than attending a night filled with beautiful classical music? On Thursday, April 5th, 2012 at 8:00 PM in the atrium of the CSP Building, one of the best chamber music groups in the United States, the New England Brass will be performing an up close and personal presentation of "From Gabrieli to Gershwin." Not only will they play classical music, but this group of talented performers will also involve familiar tunes and comedy as well, all while presenting information on how to create exciting listening experiences. The versatile group is made up of five members who devote their talents to working in many aspects of music, including orchestras, big bands, Broadway pit bands, and many more. After experiencing what the New England Brass has to offer, you will be sure to leave with new knowledge and enthusiasm for music, as well as a stress free mind ready to take on whatever may come. See you there!

Spring Event cont. from first page.

Some songs have a pop-like sound, such as "Guilty Pleasure", off of their album Viva La Cobra!, While others have a more hip-hop sound, like their new song with Mac Miller, "Middle Finger," and others still have a techno element, such as "#1Nite". They even have a few spoof songs, like "Hollaback Boy," a spoof of "Hollaback Girl" by Gwen Stefani.

The Spring Event Committee is responsible for planning the event, having its own executive board: Kaylee McDonald as Event Chair, Jackie Buczkowski heading Hospitality, Alyssa Beecy in charge of Box Office, Oliver Gregan as Production Chair, and Annie Lake as Publicity Chair; the advisors are Ian Martin, Don Albrecht, Jill Brooks, Rob Guiry, Laura Rogalski, and Valerie Romanello. The entirety of Spring Event - everything from setup to funding the artist - is funded by Student Senate. Although the Spring Event Committee plans it all, without the help of Student Senate, the big day would not be possible.

The two subcommittees that are in action right now are Box Office and Publicity. Box Office is working hard on getting tickets and organizing how they will be distributed. They will be sold downstairs in the Campus Center starting Wednesday, March 7 for $5.00. Students who buy their tickets before spring break can put a raffle ticket into a drawing from which 5 students and a guest (per student) will have an opportunity for a VIP meet-and-greet with the band. Tickets for WNE Pharmacy, Law, and other graduate school students, along with guest and faculty tickets, go on sale starting April 2 for $10.00.

Publicity is working on fliers and posters, along with social media, to get word out about the event and ticket sales. The committees are using Facebook events and Twitter to spread the word. Follow the committees on Twitter @WNEspringevent to get updates on everything. The goal is to sell the show out by getting everyone pumped up for Cobra Starship.

"I'm really excited for Cobra Starship," said Matt Amann, a junior Forensic Chemistry major. "I really like their song 'Good Girls Go Bad.' I know they'll put on a great show."

"The relationship between Student Senate and the Spring Event Committee is a great one," stated Elizabeth Walsh, president of Student Senate.

"We are able to bounce ideas off one another and have a mutually beneficial relationship. Working with Kaylee this year has been great! Kaylee often updates Senate on Spring Event, regarding where they are in the process and anything the committee might need from Senate. It is not uncommon for Kaylee or any other member of the committee to attend Senate meetings to give updates, and it is not uncommon for Student Senators to be involved with the event as a committee member or a volunteer."

Mortar Board cont. from first page.

strive for excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. Mortar Board members work to display these qualities and set a positive example for other students.

Members are spread out in sub-committees to meet the goals of the organization. Besides the Visibility Committee, there's also a fund-raising group. The National Project of Mortar Board is "Reading is Leading." A committee is devoted to working on this platform, which includes reading to children at RHA's Trick or Treat, and collecting books at Midnight Madness. Mortar Board also runs a virtual book drive. Another committee also works on recruiting and attracting new members.

"Mortar Board is a great organization that allows members to be involved in a club that actively portrays their leadership skills. In addition, the organization offers benefits and resources you cannot get anywhere else," said President Nicole Palange.

Members of Mortar Board are students of excellence, and are recognized as such. The organization offers networking, internship, and fellowship opportunities of which only members can take advantage. At Western New England, eligible students are invited to apply, and those accepted are officially inducted through a ceremony.

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Have a good sense of humor?

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If interested please contact us at:
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Entertainment

Improv troupe attends Improv Boston Comedy Festival

By: Kaylene Hersey

The Improv on the Rocks troupe with a team member and the trophy of a succeeding troupe
Imoge: Dena Navarroli

For Bostonians, it must have been a new experience riding the T and seeing nine college students all of a sudden break out into acting scenes and karaoke, flash-mob style. While the passengers are minding their own business, to have the person sitting next to them break out singing Journey's anthem hit "Don't Stop Believin", must have been a shocking sight. Senior Jay Maiellano did not seem to mind doing the singing since he did, in fact, remix the song and performed it for the commuters around him.

His eight companions also did not seem to mind, given that they joined in with him. Many viewers were probably wondering what prompted these random performances.

While on their trip to Boston, Improv on the Rocks did this just to pass the time as they traveled to the Improv Boston Bean Pot College Comedy Festival on February 23.

As the first year attending this festival as a whole troupe, the group wanted to leave the streets of Boston being remembered, so they did what they do best: improvise. It was a whole weekend filled with improvisation.

The first day there, they were thrust straight into a competition. They were matched up with another troupe and took turns alternating, performing five scenes, according to the troupe.

"The competition was like a dance battle but with improv," said Freshman Dena Navarroli.

There were three judges that gave each scene a number on the scale of one to five, based on three different elements: entertainment, improvisational skills, and the story within the scene. Improv on the Rocks went up against two different troupes, Shenanigans! From Clark University and The Usual Suspects from Mount Holyoke College. Though the troupe did lose, they still learned a lot from the experience.

"As an underclassman with upperclassmen leaving, I feel a lot more confident with the skills I learned from the trip," said treasurer, Sophomore Matt Johnston.

The competition was not the only part of the trip. On Friday, they had a showcase where the whole troupe got to perform, along with a Senior Showcase where seniors Chris Milanesi, Jay Maiellano, and Tom LeClair performed.

"As a senior, who is about to leave, I feel this trip helped us bond and prepared us for the future to grow even more," said Jay, president of the troupe.

Saturday, there were a bunch of workshops for all the troupes. Each group was split up and members attended two different workshops. The troupe said that in the near future, each member is going to take what they learned at the workshops and create a lesson for the rest of the group.

The workshops and performances with the other troupes really allowed opportunity for the group to meet other groups and bond, and to learn from them.

"As a freshman, I found that it was a great experience as a first year improviser, and I am excited to hopefully go back next year," said Nate Szymanski.

For some members, it was their second year attending the festival and it was a different experience for them.

"Going back for a second year, I think helped myself personally as an improviser but having experience helped the troupe to know what to look for when performing," said Tom.

A documentary is being created on the festival by sophomore Frank Maturo, but the completion date is still unknown.

Other members that attended the festival were Vice President, Junior Danna Mazzola, and Scribe, Sophomore Drew Jarret.

Most of the members of Improv on the Rocks will be returning to Boston March 23 to the 24 for an Improv fund-raiser at Boston University.

Tips for traveling during the spring break

By: Chantel Branco

As the midterm period approaches and students prepare for exams, pulling all-nighters spent cramming or writing papers, the one thing we can look forward to is, of course, spring break. For Western New England University students, spring break starts March 19 and goes through the 23. Spring break, the light at the end of the tunnel, is perhaps the most anticipated break of the entire school year. College students have made this term famous, with their excursions around the world, or their I'm-not-doing-anything-but-sleep-for-a-week mentality.

While many students travel home for the week, planning to relax in the company of friends and family, others prepare for trips abroad or even just away from home and school. When asked, many students stated that they would indeed be returning home for the break while others have planned vacations to places such as Jamaica, Florida, Cancun, Utah, New York, California, and the Dominican Republic.

While the majority of students will have fun and safe trips this spring break it is always good to be prepared and plan ahead, because things can always go wrong. Here are some tips for traveling, whether it is far from home for the full week, or just an adventurous day trip close to home.

Pack Carefully: when considering what to bring on your spring break trip, pack lightly, and remember that there is more to it than just bringing the right clothes and toiletries. Shy away from taking expensive jewelry or gadgets such as iPads or other items you would regret losing that might make you a target for thieves.

Have Identification: make sure you have the various forms of identification such as a license or a passport (even if you are not leaving the country). Pack an extra set of passport photos along with a photocopy of your passport information page to make replacement easier in case the passport is lost or stolen.

Stay Together: Once you arrive at your spring break destination, stay with your group, and defiantly don't wander off on your own. You know what they say, there is power in numbers, and you wouldn't want to be alone in a place that is unfamiliar to you. Use the buddy system and never leave a safe place with strangers or people that you've just met.

It's also a good idea to keep in contact with parents or guardians while you are away, just to ease their mind so that they know you are safe. If you are drinking, always be responsible, and you know the deal, never drink from a cup that you have put down or that someone has given you. Always take the necessary precautions, and be aware or your surroundings. The idea of spring break is to have fun and live to tell the tale. Don't forget the sunblock, take plenty of pictures, and bring back souvenirs!

Entertainment & Features

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TV Talk: TV Guilty Pleasures

By: Hannah Berling

Let's face it, we all have those shows that we could sit and watch for hours and hate to admit it. For some of us, it is the competition game shows. For others, it is reality shows about people that we have no idea how they became famous. Then there are those cheesy teen dramas.

Whatever show it is that you hate to admit you love, I have some theories about what draws us into these television guilty pleasures.

The Competition Game Show:

One of my personal favorite types of TV guilty pleasure are the show sin which people will do just about anything to win money. It is the reasoning behind why I was so excited to hear that *Fear Factor* was making a comeback. Some people say it's gross; my theory is, if people are willing to eat worms, crawl through sewers filled with dead skunks, or get covered in tarantulas, then they deserve to be on TV. Maybe it is the slightly immature side of me, or perhaps it is the fact that my dad is a butcher and it takes a lot to gross me out, but I could sit and watch a Fear Factor marathon all day.

The other game show that seems to have people laughing at the humiliation of others is none other than the popular obstacle course games show *Wipeout*. The appeal of this game show comes in a couple different forms.

The first is the humor behind the editing of the show. The hosts give each contestant a nickname and only show the most ridiculous things that they do.

The second aspect of *Wipeout* that allows us to laugh at it for hours is the idea of laughing at others' expense. Contestants can't say that viewers finding humor in their efforts is rude either, because you can't enter that show without know you will fall, you will look crazy, and people will laugh..

Shows about People Who aren't really that Famous:

It's the reason that *The Real World* has been popular since 1992; we are fascinated watching the lives of others unfold on television. What is it that fascinates us most about watching these types of shows, though? One theory is that we love to watch peoples' dysfunctional lives because we feel much better about ourselves.

Take a show such as *The Bad Girls' Club*; people watch because seeing how crazy and outlandish the women on that show are can make us feel much more stable. The same can be said for shows such as *The Jersey Shore*, or any of the Housewife shows.

Then you have shows about people who are "celebrities" but we don't totally know why. Any of the Kardashian shows are prime examples of this. Yes, there are certain things that make the family famous, but are they worthy of about four different television shows? Probably not, but I can be entertained for hours by them. What is it about these types of shows that catch our attention? Honestly, I have no idea, if you do please let me know.

The Cheesy Teen Drama:

The last type of show that can easily become your next television guilty pleasure is the cheesy teen drama, the shows that supposedly depict who teenage lifes actually are. They are the shows that you want so badly to flip, yet you find yourself needing to know what happens next.

In the early 2000s the show of this caliber that was a personal guilty pleasure was *Seventh Heaven*. Other shows have followed since then, but there is one that comes to the forefront of my mind.

ABC Family's *The Secret Life of the American Teenager* is a prime example of the teen drama. Filled with love triangles, pregnancies, petty arguments, and everything in between, this show supposedly depicts true teenage life. Although, most teens watching these shows know that their life isn't actually like the ones depicted, they still find themselves not being able to look away. Maybe we just get lost in the soap opera like qualities of the show, or maybe it goes back to that feeling of knowing that it makes things that happen in our lives not feel as bad.

So, the next time you sit down and veg out for hours watching a show that you would be embarrassed to admit was on your screen, know that you aren't alone. Everyone has that one show that is reminiscent of a train wreck that you can't tear your eyes from. Besides, if everything we watched was educational, where would the fun be?

Book Review: Catching Fire

By: Hannah Berling

Pick up the sequel to The Hunger Games, and get reading
Image: Suzannecollinsbooks.com

SPOILER ALERT! DO NOT READ AHEAD IF YOU HAVE NOT YET READ THE FIRST BOOK OF THE HUNGER GAMES TRILOGY.

In continuation of last week's book review I decided to continue on the Hunger Games path and review book two of the series; *Catching Fire*.

Coming out of the first book, readers are granted a sense of relief that both Katniss and Peeta have escaped with their lives, but there is that piece of you that says, "this isn't going to end that easily". If you were one of those people, you were right. Enter book two.

Out of the games, but not out of the water. While Katniss returns to District 12 with a new home and new wealth for her family, she also returns home to her best friend Gale who had to watch her love story with Peeta unfold during the games. To top it all off, President Snow is furious about the show Katniss put on with the berries at the end of the Games.

Just as in the first book, the reader is tugged along through Katniss' emotional roller coaster as she is left to pick up where she left off in District 12, dealing with new security measures put in place by the Capitol, and looking towards the Quarter Quell.

Knowing that the Quarter Quell, a more intense version of the Hunger Games that takes place every 15 years, is approaching, Katniss knows that her sister's name could once again be called into the battle.

By the time you hit Part Two of the book, you are left with jaw dropping moments in just about every chapter. What causes the need-to-read-more from there on out? I would tell you, but that would be just too easy. Instead, open the book and get lost in Katniss' new set of troubles and emotions for yourself.

FEATURES

Of The Month Awards

By: Amanda DeCosta

It's the first week of the month and it's time to reflect on the amazing things that has happened on campus this past month. After 30 days of amazing events and fantastic people, we had a total of 24 submissions for the month of February! To everyone who nominated a program or an individual, thank you so much! Taking that time to illustrate the importance of an event that happens on campus or what amazing things that someone is doing to make our WNE community better is truly appreciated.

For the Month of February, the following were our Campus Winner: Advisor: Becky Budynkiewicz, Educational Program: LEADS Conference, Executive Board Member: Amanda DeCosta, First Year Student: Kurt Tiedemann, Organization: Spring Event Committee, Resident Advisor: Feras Bankhar, Residential Community: Gateway Hall Council, Spotlight: Zachary Phelan, Student: Annie Lake

In reflection of last month, our campus wrote a Nationally Winning OTM for Andrea Daley- so if you see Coach Daley walked around on campus or in the ALHC, give her a shout out and tell her she's amazing!

For those of you who didn't get a chance to recognize – no fear, another month is near! Feel free to go to the OTM Database (www.otms.nrhh.org) and submit a nomination for a particular event, student, organization, etc. All OTMs are due by the first of every month (next deadline is November 1st by 5 pm). Once you submit your nomination, members of NRHH will vote on campus winners for each category and all the winners will be posted on the bulletin board found in the back hallway of the Campus Center.

If you have any questions about how to submit an OTM, what NRHH is about or would like more information, please e-mail the Chapter at keizerNRHH@gmail.com. Until next issue – Happy Recognizing!

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard. If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meetings are Tuesdays @ 7 pm in Rivers 105

Student Spotlight: Alex Lyman

By: Hannah Berling

As the second semester reaches its half-way point, most graduating seniors have begun the tedious process of trying to find a job and discovering what to do once they flip the tassel on their mortar board from left to right. One second semester senior though, has already started working towards her dream career.

Senior communications major Alex Lyman has recently landed a job as the weekend Assignment Editor at ABC40/Fox6 in Springfield. Lyman, who will graduate in May, shares the details of her current job, where she hopes it will take her in the future, and what helped her land this incredible opportunity.

In her work as weekend Assignment Editor, Lyman is in charge of finding out what is happening in the news and what can be covered during the weekend. Helping produce the weekend news, Lyman says, does not come without its challenges.

"The type of news you would cover on a weekend is significantly different than news you would cover during the week. It's a lot harder to convince people to go on camera on a Sunday morning when it's their day off."

In the few short months that she has been at ABC40/Fox6, Lyman has already been involved in some impressive stories.

"I helped manage our coverage of the Super Bowl. I also was able to speak with and secure a phone interview with Academy Award nominee Greg Butler who did the special effects for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2. The stories I write each week are put on the website with my byline and the stories I produce are read on air."

Lyman looks at her current employment as a step in the right direction towards her ultimate career dream; working for Good Morning America.

"I think it's a great blend of news and entertainment, serious and lighthearted. If I could anchor or report for ABC, that would be my dream job," Lyman said of her future goals.

When asked what reporters or communications professional she looks up to, Lyman had a couple of answers.

"Locally, I most admire Dave Madsen. He's a longtime anchor for ABC40 and I grew up watching him report. The audience respects him and his knowledge." Along with local figure, Lyman has a national role model as well. "Diane Sawyer. She's smart, newssavvy, and holds her audience's attention. When you watch her cover a story, it's magic."

Senior, Alex Lyman talks about her internship experiences
Image: Alex Lyman

Knowing that she is in an extremely lucky position, Lyman says she would not be where she is without the use of internships to help her towards her career path.

"Internship experience is one of the most important aspects of my resume, other than my education. It's helped me build skills and network with other people in the industry."

Along with interning at ABC40 in 2009 (an experience that Lyman says ultimately led her towards her current employment) she has also been an intern at WGBY-TV, and in marketing at Environmental Compliance Services' Fuel Division.

Lyman emphasizes that internships are vitally important in helping students get jobs after graduation.

"My advice for students seeking internships would be to take advantage of every opportunity. Be professional, be courteous, be on time. Talk to everyone you're working with. Seek advice, and soak up everything you're taught. If you make the extra effort to learn, get to know people, and make a good impression you'll come away with a lot."

For now, Lyman is enjoying her current job and finishing up her final semester at WNE. She knows that her current position at ABC40/Fox6 is a way to get her foot in the door towards her goal of one day being a reporter and news anchor. Most importantly though, Lyman is having fun and learning as she works towards those future goals.

"My favorite part about working at ABC40 is knowing that I'm starting the career that I've always wanted. I'm constantly learning. Each day is different and you never know how it's going to turn out, which keeps the job from getting boring. My coworkers and I are always helping each other and being that moral support. That's how the shows get done each day, because it's a team effort."

Features

Red Hot Chili Peppers album review: I'm with you

By: Andrea Melone

The album *I'm With You* begins in anticipation; there's an electric tone on top of an unsteady drumbeat. Then comes Anthony Kiedis' distorted voice, as the drum becomes more rhythmic. Finally, it smooths out, instruments and voice natural. As "Monarchy of Roses" plays, the listener recognizes the Red Hot Chili Peppers, with some of their unique and familiar sounds.

Although the CD possesses some qualities from previous albums, the familiarity also has a new feel, unlike older RHCP tunes. Flea's pungent bass flows out with Kiedis' typical powerful vocals, along with switches between upbeat verses slower songs. By the end, the listener is pleased with the Peppers for sticking to their classic sounds, yet somehow bringing a sense of "newness".

The Red Hot Chili Peppers, who go back to the early eighties, prove that they are still not only capable, but also talented at producing good music. The Peppers are known to radio-enthusiasts for their newer tracks from *Stadium Arcadium*, which came out back in 2006, with songs such as "Dani California" and "Snow (Hey Oh)". Older fans can remember some of their much older classics from *The Uplift Mofa Party Plan*, like the inspirational "Fight Like A Brave" and the more provocative tunes from *Blaad Sugar Sex Magik*, particularly the title track. *I'm With You* has suggestions of previous albums including *Stadium Arcadium*, as well as *One Hot Minute* and *By The Way*. Also, for the fans who have enjoyed the nonsensical vocals in songs like "Storm in a Teacup" (if I were to spell it out, I'd go with "mmm ah keshen ena miksha") and "Tell Me Baby" (I have no idea how this would be spelled, but I'd guess "gwoopte lupta gipta gotta gooptae"), the newest CD includes some of these fun slurs of sounds. Unlike most previous songs, this album lacks the raunchiness of the former, primarily appropriately named *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*, which some fans, incuding me, kind of miss.

See the Red Hot Chili Peppers on tour this summer
Image: Ellen von Unwerth / redhotchilipeppers.com

I'm With You - their tenth album - brings together punk, funk, and spunk, influences of rock and alternative music. The tracks have some of the well-loved classic Peppers, with some expected and unexpected sounds. The current band members are lead singer Anthony Kiedis, Flea on bass, drummer Chad Smith, and new member Josh Klinghoffer as guitarist, after John Frusciante left to tour on his own. Although hesitant at first, the band decided to continue making music, as they've had several changes in members since their start; Kiedis and Flea are the two continuous members. Smith, their drummer, is quoted saying, "this is a new band. Same name, but it's a new band."

The album has a certain life and death tone, ranging between the poppy and funky tunes like "Did I Let You Know" "The Adventures of Raindance Maggie" and "Even You, Brutus", to the slower and melancholic songs, such as "Breandan's Death Song" and "Annie Wants a Baby". Some tracks, including "Dance, Dance, Dance" are slower, but nonetheless cheerful enough, while some are faster, but dark, such as "Ethiopia" and "Goodbye Hooray". The tone of the album switches between positive and negative, balancing the ideas of life and death.

One of the best aspects of the album is how difficult it is for me to decide on a favorite song. I'm partial to the upbeat "Did I Let You Know" and the slow but sweet "Brendan's Death Song", but I also love "Annie Wants A Baby" and "Look Around" and "The Adventures of Raindance Maggie" and "Dance, Dance, Dance". Of course, I'm still attached to a whole slue of old songs, and I wish I could have seen RHCP live years ago, when they toured for some of their older CDs. However, I'm already set to see the band I've loved for years with my friend who first turned me on to the band; we're going in May to see them in Boston. Despite the loss of JFru, I'm still expecting a phenomenal concert.

I'm With Yau is a pretty groovy album, and I recommend it to long standing fans and the newly interested alike.

Student Senate open forum results

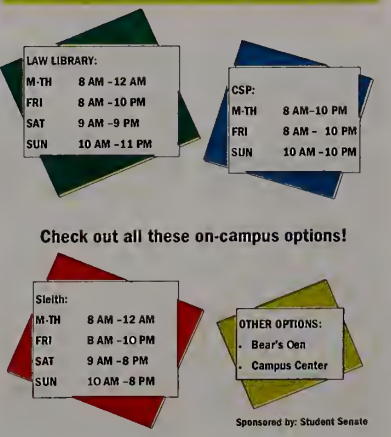
By: Jasmine Chatman

Student Senate is known as the voice of the students, and thus, last semester we hosted an Open Forum to see what changes students wanted to see. Students were given the opportunity to express their feedback and suggestions through a series of questions involving different areas on campus. The Campus Relations Committee collected and reported all the results from the following categories: Food Services, Library, Public Safety, OIT Services,. Resident life, and a miscellaneous section wherein they could voice their concerns and leave comments.

It was articulated that students would like to see a sushi bar added upstairs, and healthier choices, such as a salad bar, added downstairs. Students also expressed the possibility of either getting Java City II back or adding a vending machine in the library. Students also stated that the mandatory quiet floors in the library are not being enforced well enough. Students expressed that the internet service on campus is not fast enough, and they would like to see the entire campus go wireless someday.

On a positive note, the majority of students are registered with e2campus and are aware of public safety's escort services. However, it was suggested that students receive lanyards as a method for not losing keys. Another big topic during the Open Forum was Residence Life. Although students find the residence halls to be conveniently located and they love their Resident Supervisors, they are concerned about the occasional bug infestations within each building, and a large number of students raised objections concerning the cost of living on campus. Furthermore, students also voiced their concerns about the safety and cleanliness of Gateway, and commuters wish to see be better parking spaces.

Lastly, Student Senate meetings are open to everyone; we meet every Tuesday from 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Senate Chambers. Please feel free to join us for one of our meetings and see what we're working on. Student Senate would like to thank everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to take our survey!



Features

Good Vibrations: Austin Renfroe review

By: Cara Federici

Austin Renfroe performed in the Rock Cafe on Friday March 2nd
Image: Hannah Berling

Small CAB Concerts brought another wonderful gentleman to WNE this past Friday, March 2, when Nashville, TN native Austin Renfroe graced students with his suspenders and pending mullet dubbed "Gertrude" while performing nostalgic and goose-bump inducing covers among his original toe-tapping tunes.

Formerly known to fans as Austin Kyle, Renfroe stated in regards to his name change that "it's not hard to change your name when no one knows it". However, I firmly believe that many are already aware of Renfroe's remarkable talent and his name will continue to be remembered the instant new fans hear his guitar strings plucked and powerful notes fill the room with exhilarating excitement.

Renfroe's full-length album *Stuck In Your Head* can be found on iTunes under his former name, Austin Kyle, while the *Unexpected-EP* featuring popular radio hit and personal favorite "Taking Me Under" among singles "Brand New Christmas" and the most recent release that should be added to as many upbeat playlists as possible titled "Break Your Heart" can all be found under Austin Renfroe.

Prior to the small CAB concert on Friday evening, I heard that Renfroe would perform Disney covers per request and I couldn't help but think that he was awesome before even hearing any of his original music. My assumptions were confirmed when the smiles on student's faces throughout covers and original songs alike made it obvious that he has acquired numerous WNE fans that will support him throughout his career. The crowd was won over once he decided to play his rendition of Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time" that he stated, "I probably shouldn't do, but will do anyway" and a cover of "It's Gonna Be Me" by *NSYNC, displaying a fun disposition that is refreshing to experience.

Aside from classic '90s tunes, Renfroe delighted the audience with other lovely covers of classic Disney love songs such as my personal favorite "Kiss the Girl" from *The Little Mermaid*, Keith Urban's "Somebody Like You", and Train's "Drops of Jupiter" on the piano in the Rock. My favorite cover of the evening was Renfroe's killer rendition of Tom Petty's "Free Falling" that instantly made me open my roommate's iPhone Lighter App and continue to sway back and forth causing Renfroe to smile while the crowed enjoyed the adored tune.

I was pleased that the entire set was acoustic because it created a very comfortable atmosphere to get to know Renfroe, although I also completely enjoy the studio version of his newest released single "Break Your Heart" because it's a fun song to dance around to and listen to in the car.

One of my favorite moments of the evening was when Renfroe took to the piano for a few songs because piano is my favorite instrument. The soul emanating from his voice while performing his original song "Taking Me Under" on the piano was lovely to witness.

Besides being musically inclined and talented, an artist's personality is equally as vital for enjoying shows. Renfroe beamed through his brilliant persona both on-stage and off, displaying that he is a gentleman deserving of great future success. He gave the audience a bit of wise advice when he revealed he originally wanted to pursue a career in basketball, but found out that he had arthritis that would alter his basketball dreams. Instead of basketball, Renfroe turned to music and is following his new dream while encouraging fans to do the same as he stated, "Chase your dreams. Whether financial or physical limitations, move forward" proving that although dreams might change and different paths might be paved, that does not mean quitting is an option and one will be able to find another dream to fight for once you move forward.

The small CAB concerts have continually impressed me with their decisions to get exceptional artists who are equally charming and wholeheartedly talented. Like many other WNE students, we only hope that small CAB concerts will be able to get Austin Renfroe to return to campus someday for another evening filled with laughter, pleased ear drums, and Gertrude.

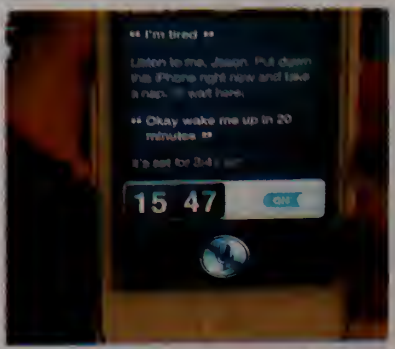
iPhone 4S: Siri review

By: Sarah Wiles

I have recently acquired a new best friend. She tells me the time, the weather, how to get places, and my schedule for the day. She calls and texts my friends for me, Googles things for me, and reminds me when something important is coming up. My favorite thing about my new best friend, however, is the fact that she greets me with a, "Good evening, Sexy." Yeah, there's nothing Siri can't do.

The latest iPhone has a feature on it called Siri, which serves as a assisitive tool using voice activation. All you have to do is press and hold the home button, then talk to your phone. You can ask Siri anything, as she is extremely user friendly. Just make sure your requests are clear; she isn't a mind reader. When she isn't sure about something, she looks it up on Google for you. If you need to text hands-free, just tell her what you want to say. If you can't look at your phone to read a text, ask Siri to read your last text. She's amazing!

Not only does it have the ordinary perks of a smartphone, but the addition of interactive voice software makes this my favorite smartphone out there. Apple already has incredible accessibility for visually impaired users; all of their phones, computers, and iPods come with software called VoiceOver, which acts as a screen-reader. VoiceOver is able to read everything on the screen as you navigate through the menus, apps, and webpages. I received the iPhone 4S this past Christmas, and it was definitely up there in my favorite Christmas presents ever. This made me an Apple fan, so I couldn't be more pleased with Apple's advanced technology and accessibility.



Siri in action, helping with time managment
Image: Leighann Camarero

Sports

Baseball coach enters 13th season at Western New England

By: Pat O'Rourke

Western New England baseball's head coach, Matt LaBranche is one of the most successful coaches in Division III College baseball.

Coach LaBranche is from Windham, New Hampshire and has coached at WNE for 12 seasons. He also played his college ball at nearby Springfield College.

When walking into his office inside in the Alumni Healthful Living Center (AHLC), there are the conference championship plaques, signed baseballs of his former players, and the trophy won at the 2011 NCAA regional tournament. This is the tournament that sent the Golden Bears to their first ever Division III College World Series this past June.

"It all represents twelve years of hard work and a long list of guys who were able to get this program to a point where we are competing on a national level," said LaBranche, who has compiled 357 wins in his WNE career. This is good enough for most wins by any coach in school history.

His 357 wins and .689 winning percentage have led to eight conference championships and eleven postseason appearances.

"I've always said that by having a good process of building a program, the result is a good product," said Western New England Athletic Director Mike Theulen. Theulen, who hired LaBranche as the head baseball coach in 2000 when the position was still part-time.

"The process coach LaBranche has built the program on has resulted in a great product."

Out of all of LaBranche's successes, the high point thus far has been the 2011 season. The Golden Bears set a school record with 42 wins, winning their 6th consecutive conference championship, and first ever regional championship. The success earned them a spot in the Division III College World Series for the first time in school history.

"The College World Series was a special event for the kids, and it allowed them to compete on the biggest stage," LaBranche said.

"Getting to that point was something I always pictured, but I never thought it was a foregone conclusion.

Coach LaBranche exchanging line-up cards before a game
Image: wnegoldenbears.com

To actually get there was surreal."

Theulen, who called the World Series run a "great accomplishment," never ruled out such a feat with LaBranche at the helm.

"When thinking about it, I always said, 'Why not?'" said Theulen.

"Knowing him and the person he was, I always knew he was capable of leading a team to that point."

Theulen's relationship with LaBranche goes back to Springfield College, where LaBranche was enrolled in the physical education program. Theulen was a professor in the program. During his time there, LaBranche was the top student and standout athlete.

"Matt was the top student in what is a very competitive program at Springfield [college]," said Theulen.

"He's always had that great work ethic, which translated to him being a standout baseball player as well."

LaBranche received his Master of Science degree from Springfield College in 1994. After that, he and Theulen went their separate ways for six years. In 2000, a new head coach was needed at the former Western New England College, where Theulen is now the Athletic Director.

"I was looking for a high-quality candidate with an established coaching record," Theulen said of his hiring of LaBranche, who had previously coached at UMASS, AIC, and Amherst High School.

"I wanted a high-quality candidate who was a go-getter and would make an immediate impact on the program."

Since hiring the young coach from Amherst High School, the Golden Bears have posted a 357-161 record, with eight conference championships and eleven trips to the postseason.

"Every year we set new goals as a team, and recommit each year," said coach LaBranché.

"I just focus on staying in the present and accomplish everything with the team I currently have. It's not about winning my ninth conference championship. It's more about winning my first conference championship with that specific team."

The approach LaBranche takes to his job as a baseball coach is one his players thrive off of.

"[Coach LaBranche] always gets the most out his players," said sophomore outfielder Steven Ambrosino.

"He always has a clear mind, and has a great ability to stay relaxed in stressful situations."

The relationships LaBranche has made with his players over the years is what he is most proud of.

"The most gratifying thing is the relationships I have created with my players," says LaBranche.

"The people who have participated in this program have been a part of something and have felt like they're a part of something."

Ambrosino sees the relationship with his coach the same way.

"I definitely want to stay in contact when I graduate," said Ambrosino.

"[I plan to] keep close tabs by following the team and attending alumni events.

Theulen has seen the Western New England baseball program go from a postseason team, to the best team in the conference, to the best team in the region under coach LaBranche. He feels LaBranche's coaching plays a significant role in the success.

"For me, the definition of a good coach is one who has a positive influence on the team he leads," said Theulen.

"And there are many great individuals who have come out of that program."

LaBranche's leadership skills resulted in him being hired as the coordinator of the physical education department at Western New England University. He manages the program and develops a criculum for the students of the university. Like baseball, the program has thrived under LaBranche's watch.

"He has done an amazing job of upgrading the physical education program here at Western New England," said Theulen.

"Because of his work, the students have benefited from the program."

In 2011, LaBranche coached the Golden Bears to their first College World Series appearance. His goal is to get back to that point, and someday win it.

"I would love to win a national championship," said LaBranche.

"We've gone in a stepwise fashion over the years, going from being the best in the conference to the best in the region. We want to build on the experience, but at the same time not change who we are."

LaBranche's goal of winning the national championship is one that his players do not put past their coach.

"He manages the game well and gets the most out of his players," said Ambrosino.

"He makes sure that you don't just play the game, but that you play it well, and know the game too."

Have a passion for WNE athletics?

If you are interested in WNE sports and would like to contribute to the Westerner please contact us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com or join us at one of our meetings held every other Tuesday at 7 pm in Rivers 105

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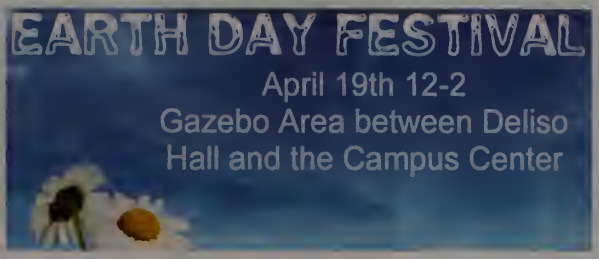
Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

WNE students celebrate Earth Day

By: Spencer Ives



Globol Sustainobility Club promotes the big event
Image: Kelsey Comtois

On Thursday, April 19, the Global Sustainability Club is hosting an annual celebration for Earth Day on Deliso Lawn from 12-2. There will also be ongoing events to extend this emphasis of environmental responsibility into an Earth Week.

Earth Day, as a national holiday, was started back in 1970. Typically, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22; however, in order to better get the message out, the Global Sustainability Club chose to host this event on the 19. Earth Day was originally brought about simply as a means to heighten environmental consciousness. Even on the first Earth Day, actions and demonstrations quickly spread country wide from Los Angeles to New York.

Here on campus, there have been Earth Day and Earth Week celebrations for quite a few years. In the past the Global Sustainability Club has brought a great variety of events to this school; these range from petting zoos to bringing in local Fresh Acres juice samples. The members of the club, as well as others, remember these past days fondly.

Continued on page 2

C.A.R.E. honors WNE volunteers

By:Andrea Melone

Students oble to sign volunteer oppreciation poster all week
Imoge: Chontel Branco

As April is National Volunteer Appreciation month, C.A.R.E. (Community Action Rewards Everyone) dedicates the week of April 16 through April 20 to the all of the Western New England volunteers.

Throughout the week, a poster will honor the volunteers, which students can sign to recognize their own contributions to the community. Volunteers can stop by the table in the campus center between 12:00-2:00pm each day to sign their names on the poster hanging on the brick wall, and receive a little "thank you for volunteering" sticker.

Then, on Thursday the 19, students are invited to attend an honorary Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at 5:00pm in LaRiviere 300. The evening will feature a pasta dinner, trivia, and prizes. Students will all receive little gifts as thank yous.

"I love making a difference in the community!" said Sitara Booker, Awareness and Children and Youth chair positions. "Sometimes people overlook the beauty of servicing the community!"

National Volunteer Appreciation week commenced officially on April 20, 1974, when President Nixon signed an executive order, declaring that the week be dedicated to all those who give their time to charities. Since then, various organizations have taken on the idea, and praised volunteers with the honorary week.

"I volunteer because love seeing the look on someone's face when we do something for them," stated Molly McKenna, the hunger and homelessness chairperson. "No matter how big or small that something was. An experience like that can make your entire day."

As is the theme of the month, CARE wishes to celebrate people in action. If you've taken part in any community service project, sign the poster so that you can feel accomplished for your efforts in bettering a community, whether it's on campus, in Springfield, or in another state.

News

Western New England Universtiy celebrates its first birthday

By: Alyssa Brunski

New banner for the new Western New England University
Image: www.wne.edu

On July 1, 2011, what was formally known as Western New England College, became Western New England University.

Now offering more majors and housing five different schools, WNE thrives on its first year as a University. To celebrate this achievement and the coming end of a great year, the Campus Activities Board is hosting WNE's First Birthday. A total of three committees are working diligently to bring entertainment and celebration on Saturday April 28, 2012. The night will host three events: an artist, a celebration, and a comedian/magician.

Beginning the night is Kevin Daniel, a classical pianist of Berklee College of Music. He has worked with platinum award winning producers who have also worked with Colbie Caillat. His songs have been featured on YouTube and the more recent television series The Vampire Diaries.

In between the musical productions and the comedian entertainment is the celebration of the Birthday. Not only will there be snacks and cake, but there will be sand art and a photo coloring book page of yourself, where a vendor stylizes the photo of you in black and white, so you can color yourself.

To finish the night is comedian/magician Derek Hughes. Featured on HBO, NBC's Late Friday, and even CSI:NY, he is described as "Thoroughly Entertaining!". He amazes audiences with his ability to portray magic with a comic twist.

So come join in the fun in celebrating the birth of Western New England! It's a first birthday you won't forget.

Earth Day cont. from first page.

This year, the Earth Day festival will have a collection of tables offering a large assortment of activities. The C.A.R.E. club is giving away flower seeds as well as the chance to decorate flower pots. Among these tables will be many other mixed arts and crafts. The Global Sustainability Club is looking into having a live music performance, and there will be food served at the event, all of which will be vegetarian.

There will be even more events continuing on through Earth Week, which lasts from the 16 to the 20. One of the main featured events is attending a rally brought together by an activist group supporting social change intent on bringing awareness to social injustices. Cleaning up the environment has always been a central part of Earth Week, as such on Tuesday the 17 of April there will be an outing for the purpose of cleaning up Breckwood Road. This event will be going on from 11 am until 2 pm. Additionally, C.A.R.E. is supporting another day for cleaning up through the movement of the 'Great American Clean-Up' on the 28, from 8 am until noon.

Luckily, the message of this movement has remained just about the same, from the first day in 1970 to this year and on this campus. "Our club is trying to raise awareness about sustainability as it relates to our natural environment" stated the president of the Global Sustainability Club, John Arvanitis, speaking to the message or importance he wants to impart to the student body with these celebrations. As such, the focus of these naturalistic holidays has nobly remained keeping the environment clean as well as understanding our impact on it.

Do you have a question for President Caprio?

Friday April 27th, GBTV will be interviewing President Caprio for GBTV News and would like to feature your questions.

Send us your thoughts, along with your name, to gbtvwne@yahoo.com by 5pm on April 26th and don't forget to tune into channel 8.2 home of Golden Bear Television.

Entertainment

WNE Stageless Players perform The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

By: Kaylene Hersey

This year's musical was just the right show the Stageless Players needed to expose such great talent on campus and to inspire growth in the Arts in general.

The Stageless Players performed *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The original musical premiered on Broadway in 2005. It was nominated for nine Tony awards and won two, for Best Book and Best Performance by a Featured Actor. The Stageless Players performed three shows on March 30 and 31 in Sleith. Each of the night shows were almost sold out and even the matinee show had a good turnout, according to Director Hillary Bucs.

"I thought it was fantastic and a huge success. I am excited about the potential for growth in the theater and Arts in general, and this musical is the next step. I want to keep the momentum going in the growth of theater," said Bucs.

For Junior Danna Mazzola, President of the Stageless Players, being able to perform a musical was a dream come true. At the last show, during the curtain call, she stated that she had been bugging Bucs since her freshman year to put on a musical. She too, was excited by the growth the musical could bring.

WNE's Stageless Players in costume for the musical

Image: www.wne.edu

"The musical was a great experience for everyone and I'm super excited to help expand our theater program even further," Mazzola said.

The musical was definitely a step in the right direction for the Stageless Players, who have been a part of Western New England since the 1970s. Their first musical was *You're a Gaad Man, Charlie Brawn*. They performed other famous musicals such as *Anything Goes* and *Hat L Baltimare*. The club, however, has not performed a musical in many years. *The 25th Annual Putnam Caunty Spelling Bee* is the first musical under the direction on Bucs.

"Directing a musical was out of my comfort zone because I've been directing non-musical comedies on Campus since 2003 such as *Sandbag Stage Left* and *Clue*," said Bucs.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee definitely still had the comedy aspect and with help from Pan Morigan, the Musical Director, the show went on flawlessly.

The week before opening night was a very hectic week, with rehearsals lasting into the night. The time spent paid off in the end because the musical came together.

"From my perspective, the show formed more from a bunch of lines to a play as the actors got more comfortable with each other and worked more together," said Stage Manager, Angelo Fontana, class of 2015.

The actors needed to work well together because in the musical there is a twist that could potentially create quite some pandemonium. Volunteers were brought into the show and were forced into the spelling bee competition. Some of the lucky candidates for this were Dr. Caprio and Dean Ghahramani, who both put on quite a funny performance, even coming close to spelling the words that were set up to get wrong.

The Stageless Players next semester will be putting on the Fall One Act Festival. For anyone interested in theater classes, students can be in Stageless Players for one credit or take some of the many theater classes offered at Western New England.

TV talk: How to survive your favorite show's hiatus

By: Hannah Berling

It is that time that every television fanatic dreads. The moment your favorite shows announce that they are going on hiatus.

For those who may not be so TV savvy, a hiatus refers to a period of weeks in which you get no new episodes of your favorite show. Usually this is done so that channels can try out a new line-up or for times posing low rating such as holiday season and summer break. Until these shows make their triumphant return though, the TV fanatic has to figure out how to pass their time every week.

As an avid TV junkie, and a huge fan of *Glee* (a shows that has seemed to do nothing but take hiatuses this season), I have learned some tricks to help wait it out and provide four of them here.

1. Watch reruns. If you are a big fan of the show chances are you have some of your favorite episodes on DVD or have bought them on iTunes. If you are the person who didn't know what to do while *Community* found itself without new episodes for a number of months, fill the time in watching those reruns. It's better than nothing, right?

2. Find companion material. Many shows with heavy fan bases will publish books, games, spin-offs, and specials around the show. Seek out those materials and submerge yourself in them. Not only will the hiatus be done before you know it, but you will know more about your TV addiction than anyone ever should.

3. Talk about the show. If you care enough about a show, you want to talk about it. You aren't alone in this need to gossip either. Social networks, especially Twitter and Tumblr, have countless pop-culture junkies just like you on them and they are waiting to hear your thoughts, and you may take a liking to theirs. As examples, shows like *Glee, Supernatural*, and *The Big Bang Theary* have countless numbers of blogs devoted to them on Tumblr, and Twitter accounts such as "Gleek Problems" provide a laugh from people just as obsessed as you.

4. Give yourself a break. Being a fan is tiring. Always trying to figure out what will happen next, seeking out spoilers, catching every appearance actors make outside the show; it gets tough. Sometimes the best thing to do is to take a break with the show. Find another way to fill that half hour or hour every week that your show usually fills. Surprisingly, this method can make your show feels like it comes back rather quickly because you are not simply sitting around waiting.

It is a dark moment in a pop culture junkies' life, the moment you find out you will be without your TV addiction for a number of weeks. If you are a faithful enough fan though, you will find a way to pass the time and you will be there ready when your show returns. So remember, as shows prepare for their season finales and we are faced with a summer of hiatuses, it isn't "goodbye", it is simply "see you later."

Do you draw? Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

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WNE students tutor english writing at the housing authority

By: Kellyn Goldberger

When you are assigned to write a paper, what is the first thought that comes to your mind? Maybe it's, I really don't want to do this, or how can I get away with writing the least amount possible and still get a good grade? All of these are common, but being assigned a paper to the students at the Springfield Housing Authority, is something completely different. Instead of wondering how they can get away with doing little work, they are wondering how to form a sentence the right way or the proper use of a comma.

A few girls and I have been tutoring writing at the Housing Authority for our tutoring class. Our job is to help out these students who are going back to school to get their GED. To them, writing a paper can determine their future. If they don't do well on the paper and get a low grade on their test, they have to go to school longer and try again, or, maybe, they can't be away from their kids or job any longer and never get their GED.

When we first started going to the Housing Authority, it was a little intimidating and we were all nervous. As soon as the first tutoring session started, we all calmed down and realized, there is nothing to worry about. The students were even more scared of us than we were of them.

All of the students there are so nice and so motivated, it was wonderful to see. Getting to hear all their stories and their struggles was quite amazing. These people have gone through so much and they are going back to make better lives for themselves and for their families. They have so much on their plates, but they are still making time to sit down and discuss a prompt for a paper.

A lot of the people we work with stopped school very early, and they need to be retaught the basics of a five paragraph essay. To some people this could be frustrating, but after discussing it with the girls I have been tutoring with, we all agree that this is a very rewarding job we were assigned.

Everything from helping them finish an essay and seeing a glow on their faces filled with pride and a little disbelief, to hearing what they have overcome, is always unbelievable. The people we work with are so great and so humble that it is always a pleasure to tutor them, and I am glad that we have this experience.

Book Review: *Mockingjay*

By: Hannah Berling

Cover of newest volume in The Hunger Games trilogy
Image: Hannah Berling

SPOILER ALERT: DO NOT READ AHEAD IF YOU HAVE NOT YET READ THE FIRST TWO BOOKS IN THE HUNGER GAMES TRILOGY.

We have made it, the end of our Hunger Games Trilogy journey, book 3, *Mockingjay*.

If you were like me, you probably picked up *Mockinjay* the minute you read the last sentence of *Catching Fire* (and if you haven't read it yet, you will).

Let's recap. Katniss Everdeen, the Girl On Fire, volunteered to go into the Hunger Games at the age of 16 to spare her sister. She wins the Games (as does Peeta, who she is pretending to be in love with while he truly loves her), she goes on a victors tour (which leads to many districts seeing the flaws in the Capitol). She then has to reenter the games with 23 other victors only to be plucked out at the end, lose Peeta, be told that the districts are rebelling, and that Disitrict 12 no longer exists.

Can't get much worse right?

Yeah right, this is Suzanne Collins writing here. In order to not give too much away, I will say this: all the secrets get unraveled in this book.

Mockingjay, like the previous two books, is split into three parts. The first part of the book focuses on Katniss trying to figure out exactly what has happened since she was plucked out of the Games. Not just what has happened to her life, but to the surrounding districts including the one she is currently living in (SPOILER: District 13), where is Peeta, and what will it take to overthrow the capitol.

Katniss sets out to become the Mockingjay and act as the symbol of rebellion against the capitol. The book focuses on the plan posed to her and the rebels of District 13 to take down the capitol and for Katniss to personally take down President Snow. As we know from the previous two books, it isn't that simple, and this book, just like its predecessors, has its twists and turns along the way.

The other main element of the book is the mystery of where is Peeta, and once that is solved, how to get him back (in more ways than one). This also adds onto the ongoing romantic aspect of the tale as Katniss, who is now reunited with Gale, must figure out with which of the boys her loyalties lie.

The downfall to this third installment is the rushed feeling of Part Three. This is the most rivoting and exciting section of the book, and is where most of the action lies, but once you finish the book you may be left with a sense of, "wait, it's done already?". The book would have benefitted from taking out some of the unnecessary details in the first two sections and providing more detail to the action packed ending.

Overall, it is a suitable and enthralling ending to this popular trilogy. Storylines are tied up and there is finally an end to all the cliffhangers. The book is an adequate ending to one of the newest trends of book series.

FEATURES

Good Vibrations: Music from One Tree Hill Review

By: Cara Federici

Kate Voegele performing her hit It's Only Life, which was featured on OTH
Image: Cara Federici

"I don't want to be anything other than what I've been trying to be lately" chants Gavin DeGraw during the opening credits of the popular teen drama *One Tree Hill*. One millisecond of "I Don't Want to Be" blaring is all it takes for me to get goose bumps and revisit the home of the Ravens in Tree Hill, North Carolina.

In lieu of an average music review, this article is dedicated to One Tree Hill fans at Western New England. The recent series finale presented a potent opportunity to reveal my admiration for One Tree Hill and the music that is integrated into such a wonderful story line that creator Mark Schwahn states, "started as a story about fathers and sons and ended as a story about fathers and sons."

Between the end of the Harry Potter series, seeing Lizzie McGuire getting married and having her first child, to the series finale of One Tree Hill, I feel like I need to be nostalgic and take a gander back into the beginning of my adolescence and thank Mark Schwahn for creating a show that has kept me endlessly entertained and lighthearted throughout its long run on television.

I grew up watching OTH from the pilot episode in 2003 that aired with awful soap opera music in the background, and strongly consider it my favorite teen drama (and I can't express enough how happy I am that the music has significantly gotten better with each season). Although, I do admit that I stopped viewing the series shortly after Chad Michael Murray and Hilarie Burton were written off because I felt Tree Hill would never be quite the same without Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Scott. Despite not watching the arrival of new characters and hectic storylines, I did watch the series finale and remember how wonderful OTH is.

The show introduced me to the wonders of Mr. Chad Michael Murray pre-*A Cinderella Story* and I am still amazed that I fell in love with basketball, a sport that I had never truly experienced besides the occasional shooting of hoops with my brother in our driveway. Apart from introducing me to a sport I wasn't familiar with, I admire the popular teen series for presenting me with some of the best music I have ever heard on any television show.

The intermingling of music within the story lines significantly increased once I learned more about the show's history. Not only was basketball widely admired, but music played a large role as well. Every episode has been named after actual songs and the title of the show itself was named after U2's song "One Tree Hill" off their album *The Joshua Tree*. Initially, the show was only meant to be a two hour feature film, but before production began, Schwahn changed his mind and decided that there was something special about the possibility of Tree Hill and he wanted to develop it into a full series lasting an astounding nine seasons.

One of my favorite moments in Tree Hill history happened at the beginning of the second season when Schwahn created Tric, a popular club in Tree Hill, that would become the home to future concerts, benefits, and memorable moments similarly for actors and fans. Furthermore, once Tric opened on the show, the guest starring bands featured on episodes and soundtracks alike kept getting more enjoyable.

Every episode after season two sent me into a Googling frenzy, trying to determine who sang the killer song that I couldn't get out of my head. It was when I found out the show was releasing its own soundtracks that I knew I would be a fan; I enjoyed being able to watch a basketball game (even if it was scripted) while learning about new music. The various soundtracks provided me with artists such as Butch Walker, José González, The Weepies, Band of Horses, and Citizen Cope; an eclectic mixture of bands I might not stumble upon on my own, but I'm certainly glad OTH supported them. Not to mention, the wonderful music written into the show itself performed by individuals who had reoccurring acting roles such as Tyler Hilton, Kate Voegele, Bethany Joy Gaelotti, and a few small parts played during the series by Gavin DeGraw, the rustic voice fans get the pleasure of hearing throughout the opening credits.

I was especially happy that Kate Voegele gaincd a role on OTH in 2008 as Mia Catalano, a refreshing solo artist who was signed to a new record label in town, Red Bedroom Records, because her role on OTH helped her music career prosper. I had the pleasure of seeing Voegele at the Webster Theatre in Hartford, CT in 2009 where she put on a fantastic show. Her melodic voice was incredibly powerful and I was impressed with how contagious her stage presence was.

Similarly to Voegele's acting gig on OTH, Tyler Hilton's adorable mug started appearing as the infamous Chris Keller in 2004, creating friction between two of the main character's relationship. Hilton never ceased to entertain the audience through his acting and performing; his homely tone and sharp attitude kept fans quick on their feet and wondering what problems Chris Keller would cause in future episodes.

I remember when I purchased the first OTH soundtrack, *One Tree Hill: Volume I*. I listened to Butch Walker's track "Mixtape" and I immediately fell in love with Walker's sound; I couldn't wait to listen to his other work. To this day, Butch Walker is one of my favorite artists who I think does not get as much recognition as he deserves. His gritty voice mixed with a whirlwind of slick sounds makes listening to my favorite songs "#1 Summer Jam" and "Pretty Melody" hard to get out of my head.

Following *Volume I*, the soundtracks *Volume II: Friends with Benefit* and *Volume III: The Road Mix* were most definitely overplayed in my CD player. I loved how *Volume II: Friends with Benefit* reflected the benefit CD released on the show because it allowed fans to connect with the story line on a different level; individuals were able to hear songs that were being talked about in various episodes and it was like having a prop from the show to over listen to whenever one felt necessary (which was usually frequently because the featured artists were awesome). *Vol. III: The Road Mix* should be added to every adventure because there is such a diverse collection of music that would make any road trip better.

Overall, I give OTH's music coordinators incredible kudos for the various musical selections that go into each episode and onto each soundtrack because I have been introduced to some excellent artists. I'm glad I heard OTH advertised on the radio the morning of its Pilot premiere because I'm not sure if I would be familiar with such wonderful artists today without the help of Tree Hill. I'm certainly going to continue listening to awesome music and always remember North Carolina as the home of the Tree Hill Ravens.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meetings are Tuesdays @ 7 pm in Rivers 105

Opinion

On environmental extremism, exploitation, and cynicism

By: John Arvanitis

Who doesn't love the environment? Who doesn't like to go all 'Robert Frost' when they're in nature and make up little poetic spurts in their head while being intoxicated by the intrinsic beauty of the outdoors? I certainly enjoy climbing Bear Mountain in Amherst, where I can stand atop the 1,014-foot peak and feel the invigorating fall breeze race against my face. I often look down from the summit at the miles of mountainous tree line and think to myself how valuable it all is. I then notice the winding black roads that cut through the brush, exposing homes and cities that speckle the landscape. I look even farther ahead and see UMASS Amherst, and in the other direction, I see the red and white stripped water tower in my hometown. To me all these things, from the native plant and animal species, to the humans inhabiting the cities, hold equal value.

As with most things in life, moderation is paramount. To care too much about the environment and neglect the needs of people is just as ignorant as clear cutting old growth forests. The same rationale applies to living a life of environmental exploitation. Losing thousands of species a year due to rainforest degradation can be seen as equally disheartening as the genocides happening in Sub-Sahara Africa. In order to reach a truly sustainable culture of harmonious relationships with all living things, all living things must be considered. By only caring about the environment, people consciously neglect the needs of seven billion other living things that currently inhabit the Earth. Conversely, by only caring about the needs and wants of people, we as a culture lose the sheer beauty, truth, and benefits offered by the natural world.

To really display this point, here are two abbreviated examples of extreme actions and opinions related to the environment that simply don't make sense.

One popular thing for environmental extremists to demand is to stop fossil fuel use tomorrow. Environmentalists claim that the extraction process and sales of these fuels are unethical, impractically managed, and will be overall detrimental to society if continued. I will not argue against said issues because these points are not terribly mistaken. However, many environmental extremists are willing to throw away economic and social considerations for the sake of the natural world regardless of the cost to living people. To stop fossil fuel use tomorrow would require a complete upheaval of every aspect of our society's infrastructure and eventually bring the economy to a shuttering stop, costing goodness-knows how many jobs. Changes like these cannot come about so radically on such a large scale. Environmental extremists need to understand that many people's livelihoods depend on environmental atrocities. The only way to divert jobs and lives away from these industries (in a sustainable way) is through a process of slow changes to our society's values. This form of extremist thought is not what a civilized society needs.

To remain impartial, I will give my most favorite example of people siding with the extreme of personal endeavor over environmental consideration- hydraulic fracturing and the natural gas industry. Natural gas companies claim that their product is the cleanest and possibly the most practical form of energy for the foreseeable future. Burning natural gas causes no particulate pollution and the industry provides millions of Americans with an inexpensive form of clean fuel. These things are relatively true, however, the process of putting chemicals into the ground to disturb geographical structures that release natural gas, or "fracking" is really a deplorable practice that devastates the local environment by polluting groundwater and making surface land unlivable. Yet the nefarious natural gas industry is frightfully successful and fracking is still happening throughout the country. This practice severely neglects the environment for the sake of capital gain and is clearly an unacceptable and unsustainable extreme that many people align with because it makes economic sense to do so. Thanks but no thanks, natural gas industry, this form of extremist thought is neither welcomed nor needed.

Neither extreme is the right way to sustain society, so how can we go about living when these extreme viewpoints exist in such close proximity?

Why even bother with people? Our culture is so far removed from obvious realities that there is no way to ever reach a synthesis between the natural world and our exploitive world of industry. There is no way to change opinions of people because everyone is just too hardheaded and ignorant. Do these cynical statements sound a bit strange? Doesn't it seem a bit too easy to rely on cynicism instead of facing problems and attempting to change them? John Fitzgerald Kennedy said, "The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men [and women] who can dream of things that never were." The most important thing to take away from that brilliant quote is that people who are skeptical and cynical have limited themselves. I implore the people of this campus to not limit themselves to one form of thought, be it cynicism, environmental extremism, or capitalistic exploitation. We as a society need to move toward a point of synthesizing contrasting ideas. As humans, we are developed enough at this point in history to understand that neither extreme is right, and that only through the marriage and moderation of ideas can we reach a sustainable future. Perhaps this is all blind optimism, but I certainly won't allow myself to be limited by things that others say cannot be.

I leave you with the words of the world's most famous environmental extremist next to Bill Mckibben, my girl Pocahontas, "But if you walk the footsteps of a stranger, you'll learn things you never knew you never knew." All Pocahontas and I are asking is for environmental extremists to consider the viewpoints of others and consider the interests of people when protecting the environment.

Can lacrosse get some recognition?

By: James Rizzo

One sport that you do not hear about as much as others is lacrosse. Lacrosse is a highly competitive sport that entails quickness, skills, endurance, and most importantly, teamwork.

Lacrosse is a team sport of Native American origin and it is played with a smaller rubber ball and a lacrosse stick. The goal of this sport is to score goals against your opponents using the lacrosse stick to shoot, pass, and prevent the other team from scoring as well by stick checking, body contact, and positioning. There are four 12 minute quarters in every lacrosse game and a total of 48 minutes of gameplay. Lacrosse is played mainly in the United States and Canada.

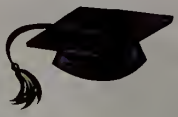
There are three types of play in lacrosse: field lacrosse, box lacrosse, and women's lacrosse. Field lacrosse is played outside, box lacrosse is played indoors, and women's lacrosse is the same as field lacrosse except that women play on the field. The difference between men's and women's lacrosse is that men wear more padding and wear a full helmet. As for the women, the only protective gear they can use are a mouth guard and face guard. And another thing to mention is that physical contact is not allowed in women's lacrosse because of such less protection. However, women are allowed to stick check.

I have gone to watch many lacrosse games in my time, whether it be men's or women's; I have seen both. And I have to say that the competitiveness in this sport definitely shows. I see players charging up and down the field with amounts of energy that I cannot even get close to. While watching, I can see the determination in each team to win each game. But what tops all of above is that I see each team working together towards the same goal. Most sports require teams to work together to win games. In lacrosse, you hardly ever see just one player on the field scoring every goal for the team. You see many different players on the team scoring multiple goals, whether it be from the players in the starting lineup or players that started the game on the bench. This is what draws my attention to lacrosse and makes me become a fan of the sport. I like sports that involve team work and lacrosse is no different from the others.

But lacrosse does not get much recognition in the sports world because it is not one of the major sports people watch in America. Normally, the major sports that are shown on TV are baseball, basketball, hockey, and football. And the only time you see lacrosse on TV is when ESPN shows a college lacrosse game every now and then. I do not understand how this sport does not get more attention than it already has.

Check out this article continued in our next issue!

Puzzles



Graduating Seniors

Don't Miss Out

Everything you need to know to prepare for Commencement on May 19, 2012 is on the Commencement website at:

www.wne.edu/commencement

Be sure to check it out so you don't miss an important date, time, or event. Give the website address to your family – there are things they also need to know.

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

Everyone knows that there is no way to avoid all transportation and travel, particularly if you go to college. So I thought I'd give you some helpful tips!

1.) **Clear the clutter.** Every 100 pounds you carry inside your car lowers its fuel economy by one to two percent. So if you don't need it, don't have it in your trunk.

2.) **Keep your cool.** When the weather decides to actually be warm for a bit, use the air conditioner if you're going faster than forty miles per hour, since a lot of engine power at high speeds goes to reducing drag. When you're cruising around town, it's more efficient to roll down your windows.

3.) **Check the pressure.** Check your tire pressure monthly (you'll get the most consistent results by using your own gauge when the car is cold). Americans driving on under-inflated tires waste four million gallons of gas each day and reduce their tires' lifespan.

4.) **Think differently.** Could some of your short trips be made on public transportation, or by walking, or riding a bike? Combining trips helps, as does carpooling with friends.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: S equals E

BXHI DR ROS QXLDQ

QWAPSNUDNB, ROSU PSVDI

WFZIV ROSZN ISH AXRRX *LXAS

FSS, LXAS FDHI*

MAGIC MAZE ● BE CAREFUL — DON'T TRIP

B B Y V S Q N K H E B Y S W T

R O G L J G E B Y W U R T P N

K I G N D B Z D X V S Q A O M

K I G E I C A O S Y W U I B S

Q P N L J R H O K E F E R R C

A Y X S Y O T R A V L U S E U

S Q P N M C K S T A C B D D J

H F E C (S K A T E B O A R D) B

Z Y X V W I R E S O I U O A T

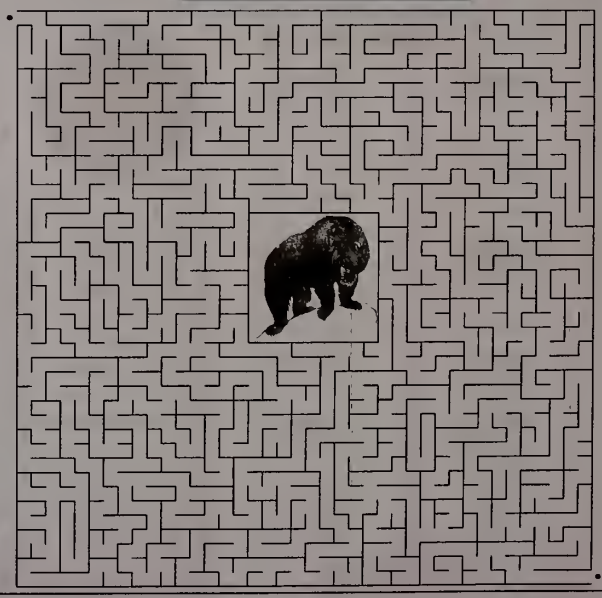
R Q P O M L K P I C H H W L M

G E D C K L A W E D I S G U R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Cats	Ladder	Shoestring	Toys
Curb	Marbles	Sidewalk	Wires
Doorstep	Rock	Skateboard	Words
Ice	Rugs	Skates	

Mega Maze



Sports

Western New England Rugby defeats Westfield in first game of the spring

By: Barney Davis

Western New England players rucking to retain posession of the ball
Image: Barney Davis

Western New England Rugby defeated Westfield State 12-10 in their first match of the spring on March 31.

The first half was marked by injury and numerous penalties. Two Western New England players suffered injury in the first half, but the team stayed strong, playing much of the first half in Westfield territory, but squandered their chances through ill discipline and loose possession security. The lapses were more mental than any problems with skill or technique, as to be expected in the first match of the spring campaign. After the first half came to a close, the score stood drawn at 0-0, with Western New England defense being a particular strongpoint.

In the second half, Westfield came out firing and put together a period of sustained pressure on the WNE line before darting over for a score off a five meter scrum. Although the kick was missed, Westfield clearly enjoyed taking the lead by 5-0.

Their advantage was short lived, however, as the sting of a conceded try brought WNE to life and kicked into a higher gear of intensity and aggression.

Aggressive physicality at the ruck protected the ball and several players stepped up with powerful carries to hammer into the Westfield red zone before eightman Stephen Farnham powered over under the posts. Loosehead prop Ryan Shultz nailed the conversion to take a 7-5 lead for the visitors. A second try was not long in coming as WNE powered into the defense before scrumhalf Zack Phelan put replacement winger Jon Fields down the sideline. Fields showed great skill to draw the defender and offload back inside to Phelan for the scrumhalf to vault over in the corner for a try on his birthday. Although the difficult kick fell just short, the Western New England sideline honored their Captain with a rousing rendition of the Happy Birthday Song.

After another lengthy break for an injury, Westfield made a raft of substitutions and were able to scrap back into WNE territory. Although we were able to steal the ball off them, two attempts to clear the ball up field were foiled and Westfield eventually scrambled over in the corner at the death, earning their kicker a shot to tie the match, but the kick had neither distance nor direction and WNE were victorious 12-10.

Special recognition is given to Jake Eastman and Dan Fonseca, both of whom came off the bench to make their debut for the club at lock and outside center, respectively.

The Man of the Match seemed to be scrumhalf Zack Phelan. He was tireless and fearless about the pitch in defense, controlled his pack well, and delivered good passes from the base. Being on hand to score his try was the icing on the cake. Plus, his mom made cupcakes for the team.

Special mentions go out to Ryan Shultz, who's kicking not only made the difference on the score line, but was also a potent territorial weapon, including a monster sixty yard punt from one twenty-two to the other, to the whole of the backline, who's defense and tackling were excellent, and to flanker Van Nguyen, for managing to get himself one half of a yellow card.

WNE 12 (Tries S. Farnham, Z. Phelan, Conversion R. Shultz 1/2) to Westfield 10 (Two tries, no conversions).

*Note: this team has no affiliation with Western New England University.

Spring Athletic Records

Women's Softball

Wins: 11

Losses: 13

Conference Play: 5-3

Women's Lacrosse

Wins: 5

Losses: 10

Conference Play: 2-4

Men's Baseball

Wins: 18

Losses: 9

Conference Play: 8-1

Men's Lacrosse

Wins: 7

Losses: 3

Conference Play: 4-0

Men's Tennis

Wins: 5

Losses: 6

Conference Play: 2-2

Men's Golf

Placed 4th out of 18 at the Hampton Inn Invitational on 4/13-4/14

*All records as of 4/15/12

Have a passion for WNE athletics?

If you are interested in WNE sports and would like to contribute to the Westerner please contact us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com or join us at one of our meetings held every other Tuesday at 7 pm in Rivers 105

Sports Quiz

by Chris Richcreek

1. Chicago Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro set a record in 2010 for most RBIs in a major-league debut. How many did he have?
2. In 2011, Atlanta's Brian McCann became the second person in major-league history to have a pinch-hit, game-tying homer in the ninth and followed with a game-winning home run. Who was the first?
3. Who was the last coach of the Houston Oilers before Jeff Fisher took over in 1994 and the team eventually moved to Tennessee?
4. Entering the 2011-12 season, Kentucky was the No. 1 team for total victories in Division I college basketball (2,052). Name three of the next five schools.
5. How many players reached the 100-point plateau in the NHL in the 2010-11 season?
6. Name the Russian superheavyweight Olympic weightlifter who won two gold medals and had a nine-year unbeaten streak (1970-78).
7. Who was the last LPGA golfer before Yani Tseng (2010-11) to capture two women's majors in consecutive years.

Answers

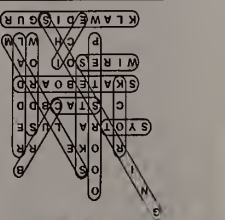
1. Six.
2. Jeff Heath of the Boston Braves in 1949.
3. Jack Pardee (1990-94).
4. Kansas (2,038 wins), North Carolina (2,033), Duke (1,944), Syracuse (1,800) and Temple (1,766).
5. Just one, Vancouver's Daniel Sedin, with 104 points (41 goals, 63 assists).
6. Vasily Alekseyev.
7. Karrie Webb, in 2000-01.

CryptoQuip

answer

Down at the local lumberyard, they began using their new motto "Come see, come saw!"

Magic maze



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The Westerner

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Please e-mail: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Western New England University implements parking fee

By: Josh Zaino and Chantel Branco

Students should report to Public Safety for porking permits
Imoge: Honnah Berling

As the fall semester begins at Western New England University, students and staff will take note of the changes occurring on campus, most predominately, the newly instituted parking fee. WNE has made a shift from that of a free parking lot policy to a pay-per-semester one, in effect at the start of this 2012 academic year.

Resident students will have the choice of paying $110 per semester ($220 per year), and commuters a lesser charge of $60 per semester ($120 per year). This fee will be added to students' accounts automatically once they have picked up their passes from the public safety office.

These new rules will go into effect on Saturday, September 8, 2012, so plan accordingly, as that means the Public safety officers will be ticketing vehicles without the proper parking registration.

The Westerner had the opportunity to talk with Dean Hart-Steffes regarding the matter of the new parking fee and the administrative decision to ultimately implement it. In regards to the creation of the parking fee, Dean Hart-Steffes said, "A majority of the schools (in the area) charge a student fee, some charge no fee, while others do not allow first year students to have a car on campus at all."

When asked what instigated the change, Dean Hart-Steffes cited that the "entire campus was tasked with coming up with ways to save money or generate new funds to assist with the operations and program development of the campus."

The idea was proposed at a meeting of the Directors in the Division of Student Affairs, and discussed at the Budget Advisory committee and also at the President's staff meetings. Moving forward with the decision, it was then approved by the Board of Trustees.

Dean Hart-Steffes commented that the fee could be used as a "revenue source as a way to sustain the institutions without compromising the quality of the experience. Unlike

Continued on page 3

Western New England University students travel abroad

This past summer, many Western New England University students traveled abroad to various places around the world, achieving course credits while experiencing the cultures of their host countries. These first-hand accounts are highlighted below from the trips to southern Africa, Ireland, and London, England.

Students visit the Guinness storehouse, trademark of Irelond
Imoge: Professor Melissa Knott

Students study abroad on the College of Business summer trip to Ireland

By: Sarah Wiles

Last June, sixteen students crossed the Atlantic Ocean to attend a ten-day program in Ireland through the Western New England College of Business.

Students had the option to enroll in an integrated liberal and professional course on global advertising with Professor Spotts and/or a course with Professor Forray involving international practicum that could fulfill either a general business or a cultures requirement.

We started in Dublin on Monday, June 4, congregating in the airport where we met our tour guide at 9:30 in the morning. We received a private tour of Trinity College, which houses the famous Book of Kells. The tour guide then took us on an informal bus tour of the surrounding area to get acquainted with stores, pubs, and restaurants, as well as tourist sites, around the hotel.

The second day, we visited the company Forfas, where we received a presentation from the Department Manager, Adrian Devitt, which not only gave an overview of the purpose of Forfas, but gave an in-depth prospective into the economy of the Republic of Ireland. Also on the second day, we attended a tour of the Guinness Storehouse, where we learned the history of Guinness, saw first-hand the process of brewing Guinness and all of their past ad campaigns, and tasted a fresh pint of Guinness itself. Being one of the major industries and historical points of Ireland, this visit provided us with an understanding of the value of

Continued on poge 2

News

Summer travel cont. from first page.

beer, and particularly Guinness, to the Republic of Ireland.

On the third day, we visited Carphone Warehouse, where Mr. Peter Scott, general manager, gave a presentation on developing an effective customer service strategy. This was immediately followed by a presentation at Smurfit Kappa Group, where Mr. Tom Mooney, the managing director of the Kells plant, discussed growth strategies of a domestic company. The evening concluded with a lively dinner at a pub within a local hotel, where traditional Irish singers and dancers took the stage as the audience indulged in food and drink. This gave us an authentic prospective of a traditional Irish evening out.

The group transferred to Limerick on the fourth day, during which we stopped in Waterford for a cultural tour around the city, as well as the Waterford Crystal factory. The following day, we took a trip to Shannon Development, where Mr. Eugene Brennan, Director of International Consultancy, and Ms. Joan Corcoran, manager of the National Technology Park, discussed regional development strategies within Ireland. After lunch, we received a guided walking tour of Limerick—the third largest city in Ireland--to see historical sites, as well as stores, pubs, and restaurants in the surrounding area. Some of the historical sites included King John's Castle, St. Mary's Cathedral, and the Custom House.

Students had the entire next day off to explore Limerick at their leisure. Sunday we were back on the road to visit Bunratty Castle, where we received some historical background, and were then free to explore the castle on our own. Bunratty Castle is the most complete and authentic medieval castle in all of Ireland which was built in 1425. Some of 19 century rural life is recreated in Bunratty Folk Park, within the grounds of the castle, and students were free to explore that area as well. We then went to the Cliffs of Moher to experience the breath-taking splendor of the sheer cliffs, which dropped approximately 600 feet to the water below. Some students were brave enough to walk past the barriers, close to the edge.

On day eight, we started out by visiting Pallas Foods and receiving a presentation from Damien O'Dwyer, Quality Assurance Manager, regarding managing a successful supply chain. This business has interactions with Sysco, an American supply chain with which many students were familiar. After this presentation, we attended the final business trip in the itinerary: Shannon Airport, where Mr. Niall Maloney, Head of Operations and Services, discussed management, as well as the rich history of Shannon Airport as one of the fueling stations in the first trans-Atlantic flight.

We were transferred back to Dublin the following day, and spent the rest of the trip in leisure, until our departure on June 14. The courses continued through the second week of July.

Kelly Robbins, a junior biology major, discusses how the experience of being in the Republic of Ireland itself influenced her knowledge in the courses: "My experiences in Ireland truly helped me to relate both to the culture and ILP classes by giving me hands-on and first-hand interaction with Irish culture and advertisements."

Summer abroad in southern Africa enlightens students on African culture and the issue of AIDS

By: Spencer Ives

This summer, eight students along with two professors from Western New England University, made the journey to travel, live, and study in the region of southern Africa. We flew out of America at the end of May and made our way back at the end of June. The group was focused around two separate, but connecting courses; one on the cultures of modern Botswana, the other on the global AIDS pandemic. Directly correlating to, these courses, the group was able to see a large variety of cultural, historical, and plain awe-inspiring sites.

It was on June 1, 2012, that our group arrived in the expansive city of Johannesburg, South Africa. We spent the first couple of days after our arrival touring Johannesburg and various cities close to it, such as Pretoria, Soweto, and Alexandra. Through guided tours, we saw parts of those cities that are drenched in the culture of the country. These aspects have ranged from the governmental significance of seeing the President's house in Pretoria, visiting historical monuments like the Voortrekker Monument and Freedom Park, experiencing the local cuisine in a small restaurant in Soweto, and witnessing the issue of poverty present in Alexandra. Seeing these things presents a certain type of knowledge, the kind that comes from direct first hand experiences, and the exact kind that we were there to take part in.

After spending a glorious two days learning about the rich and unique culture, the time came to pack up and head to our main destination, Botswana. During the majority of our time in Botswana the students stayed in the graduate housing of the University of Botswana, in the capitol city of Gaborone.

After we arrived in Gaborone and settled in, our first trip was to see the Dikgosi Monument. With figures and depictions representing many facets of the country's rich history, it set the scene for the city and country we were about to experience. Throughout our stay in the country we toured many areas and sites, including a few noteworthy places such as several non-government organizations specifically advocating for more rights in various areas. Among them were, children's rights, immigration, homosexual rights, and the death penalty, along with many others. It was extremely eye-opening to see the universal nature of these issues and the way another country is viewing them.

Later on in the program, the group got the opportunity to travel to the northern part of Botswana, around Kasane. This amazing trip began almost immediately after our arrival to the lodge with a sunset boat ride on the Chobe River. Besides the beautifully tranquil scene of watching the sky explode into an array of orange and red, we were afforded a couple other interesting sites on the ride, ranging from crocodiles to the vaguely indicated, but rather protected, borders at the four-corner meeting of Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The next day, we crossed the border into Zimbabwe to see one of the seven natural wonders of the world: Victoria Falls. Stretching over a mile wide, the water falls over a hundred meters to meet the river below and earn its rightful local name "Mosi-oa-Tunya", which translates into: "the smoke that thunders".

As we walked alongside the fall on the cliff opposite, there would be water raining down on us under an otherwise clear sky. The morning of our return from the region around Kasane, before the sun had even risen, we left the warm beds of our lodge to brave the cold of an open-top truck headed towards the Chobe Game Reserve. Eventually the sun came up to meet us as we watched eagerly for any type of animal from giraffes to elephants. As we continued to drive around, all sort animals came out. Rafts of hippos and herds of buffalo covered the waters and the plains.

These were only a few of the trips and sights that our group experienced while over in southern Africa. The trip, as a whole, was truly amazing in every aspect, from learning with our professors in the University of Botswana classrooms about the area we were visiting to the jaw-dropping first hand experiences of seeing sites like Victoria Falls. Even months after the trip concluded, it is still easy to recall all that we learned in these courses or the image of the giraffes standing majestically among the African trees; both these sides to our trip were exceptionally enriching and absolutely unforgettable.

Continued on page 3

WNE students in front of 3 Dikgosi monument in Gaborone, Botswana
Image: Professor Marc Dawson

News

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Summer travel cont. from second page.

Western New England students travel to London to experience British life, culture and politics

By: Chantel Branco

Students from the summer trip to London gather for a group photo on the London Eye
Image: Chantel Bronco

On May 18, 2012, eight of my peers and I embarked on an adventure of a lifetime, where we were able to live a unique learning experience. For six weeks we lived and studied in London, earning six or twelve credits for completing either two or four classes during the summer session. The trip was offered through our own University and all four professors who went are professors and active members of the WNE community.

The trip was divided into two sections, with two classes offered for each session. The courses offered on the trip were selected to meet most students' general requirements, which included a cultures course, a human rights ILP, an art history course, and a British media and politics course.

The classes were taught one-by-one, each lasting an average period of about eight days, and combined classroom sessions with real life experiences such as walking tours of London, museum trips, and much more.

Upon our arrival in London, we immersed ourselves in class sessions, and of course, life outside of the classroom. For the Victorian England cultures course, we studied the lifestyles of London's 19th century citizens by day, while living like modern Londoners by night. Professor Barcalow, who taught the first class on the trip, assigned each student in the class with a 19th century Victorian England persona. During class we spoke from the perspectives of our personas and were encouraged to think as they might on any given topic or situation. This odd but fun learning technique enabled us to really understand the British culture and general history.

The second course offered was a human rights ILP course taught by Sara Weinberger, where we learned about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its importance, and how human rights pertain to everyone around the world. Class discussions were complemented with walking tours of London where we were able to see the actual historical places that had denied many people of their human rights such as the courthouses and factories.

"By the end of your week with me, you will be able to walk down any street in London and tell me roughly when it was built," professor South said in an information session about the trip before we left the states. I doubted him then, but he was right. In his art history course, we studied English architecture from the 12th century through to the 19th century, and just as he predicted, we were all pointing out architectural features of buildings and guessing their time periods, even after the class had ended.

Our last class, British media and politics, a political science and communication hybrid, dealt with the modern workings of, well, British media and politics. With this class, we were able to study the workings of British politics and then actually get to see them in action. We visited the houses of Parliament and toured the British Broadcasting Company, while studying the British government and discussing the latest media scandals.

Although classes took up our days, we certainly made the most of our free time and ventured off to see everything that London had to offer. We had just been thrown into this new setting, and knowing we only had a short time, we tried to see and do as much as we possibly could from learning how to use the 'tube' or the London Underground, to experiencing the pub life, and even venturing out into the countryside to visit the Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden where the Harry Potter movies where filmed. Most days were completely crazy as we ran from one place to another trying to get everywhere and see everything. Memories of our trips into Richmond town, riding the red double-decker bus for the first time, or being jam packed in a tube car with an overwhelming amount of strangers are just a few of my favorites, but I think about them everyday.

In our six weeks in London, we learned about London's history, art, famous figures, working politics and much more through lectures and readings, but supplemented that with trips to important historical cites and buildings, and cultural centers such as markets and theaters. The combination of class sessions and real life experience proved to be the most effective and fulfilling educational setting I have thus far participated in, and would recommend and encourage that everyone take the opportunity to study abroad!

The Westerner recognizes that there were summer abroad trips not featured in this issue. If you would like to submit a travel abroad article, please contact us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Parking fee cont. from first page.

mandated tuition and fees, most students have some choice about whether or not they wish to have a vehicle on campus." And ultimately whether or not they have to pay that fee.

When asked what the benefits of a fee such as this are, the Dean stated, "Better management of the volume of parking for the campus," and also "the parking fees help protect services important to students at a time when financial resources are generally tight for colleges and universities."

Although the new parking fee may not be favorable, it does keep in mind the students best interests and helps protect the campus wide services we have become accustomed to. With the turning of seasons comes the beginning of a new academic year, policy changes, and presumably fewer cars.

For additional information on the matter please contact Dean Hart-Steffes at jsteffes@wne.edu or (413) 782-1282.

Entertainment

Hannah's T.V. Talk: Fall T.V. preview

By: Hannah Berling

September is upon us, which means one thing for television junkies; season premiere time. The weeks of September are the busiest premiere weeks of the season including returns of old favorites such as *Glee* (new day and time Thursday, September 13 at 9:00 pm), *The Voice* (Monday, September 10 at 8:00 pm), and *The Good Wife* (Sunday, September 30 at 9:00 pm). The theme of this new year of TV is not so much hour long dramas or reality shows--although we do get *Dancing With The Stars: All-Stars*—but, rather, it is the sitcom that will be fighting for viewers.

All the major networks (ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX) will be fighting it out for title of the "best sitcoms" after old favorites and new gems emerge in the coming weeks.

CBS, which has dominated the sitcom world for years with Emmy nominated and winning shows such as *Two & A Half Men, Big Bong Theory, How I Met Your Mother, ond Mike & Molly*, isn't unveiling many new comedies this season, but they are going to shake up their lineup. Comedy Mondays will begin at 8:00 pm with *How I Met Your Mother*, followed by their one new comedy *Portners* (lifelong friends and architects form a business partnership), last year's hit new comedy *2 Broke Girls*, and ending with *Mike and Molly* at 9:30 pm The other comedy evening for CBS will be Thursday which will feature the return of Ashton Kutcher led, *Two & A Half Men* at 8:00 pm. and *The Big Bang Theory* at 8:30 pm.

NBC, which previously was left behind in the comedy race, is rolling out a whole new line of sitcoms this season. Tuesday nights will feature *Go On* (the new Comedy featuring Mathew Perry of Friends) at 9:00 pm and *The New Normal* (a comedy about a gay couple trying to have a baby via surrogate from Glee show runner Ryan Murphy) at 9:30 pm. Wednesday nights will bring us the premiere of *Animal Practice* at 8:00 pm, followed by the new show *Guys With Kids* at 8:30 pm. Thursday nights will be the night of NBC's well known comedies from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm featuring *30 Rock, Up All Night, The Office, and Porks & Recreation*. NBC is taking a risk by jumping into the world of Friday night comedy with the return of *Whitney* and *Community* from 8:00 pm until 9:00 pm.

ABC will be competing with NBC on Tuesday nights from 9:00 pm until 10:00 pm with the return of their comedies *Happy Endings* and *Don't Trust the B--- - in Apartment 23*. Wednesdays will feature comedy from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm starting with the return of *The Middle*, followed by the new show *The Neighbors* (featuring a neighborhood full of aliens). At 9:00 pm we get award dominating *Modern Fomily*, followed by *Suburgatory*.

Finally in the race for sitcom royalty comes FOX. Fox features one major night of comedy, Tuesdays from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm. It all begins with the return of *Raising Hope*, then the new anticipated comedy *Ben & Kate* at 8:30 pm. 9:00 pm treats us to last season's breakthrough sitcom *New Girl* which is followed by new show *The Mindy Project*.

So who wins in the world of the sitcom? Each night will pose a different answer. With no sitcom competition in their way, CBS will win Monday, and may surpass NBC on Thursdays from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm with leverage from The Big Bang Theory. Wednesday can be won by ABC on the back of Modern Family (although The Neighbors poses the risk of an early cancellation is not seen by the correct audience). Tuesdays will be where the battles begin. NBC has the ability to change the world and minds of viewers with Murphy's *The New Normol*, yet *New Girl* on FOX will bring a large fan base back to the network.

So TV viewers, choose wisely when it comes to how you want to get your laughs in this year. With old favorites, new surprises, and everything in between, there are no worries this year for anyone who isn't a fan of the drama because this will truly be the year of the sitcom.

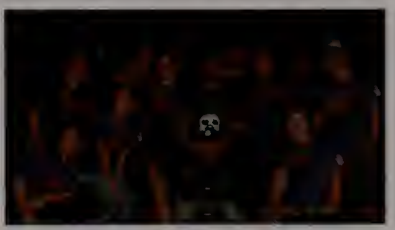
Josh Wolf is first comedian of the semester

By: Andrea Melone

After the first week of classes, the Campus Activities Board hosted stand-up comic Josh Wolf on September 1 to an audience that filled Rivers Arena.

Josh Wolf, a regular on *Chelsea Lately*, began his routine targeting his audience: Springfield. He selected a collection of facts about Springfield, MA, observing some of the quirks of the city, such as the suggested 19 places to visit, lightheartedly poking fun.

His show continued with a similar theme: mockery. Wolf ridiculed aspects of politics on relevant topics to college students, keeping his audience in mind. He even shared some of his son's more embarrassing moments, noting with a grin, "instead of good parenting, I make a joke!" As he teased members of the crowd, he focused on eager participants, making it an interactive performance. He recommended students tweet him, asking questions that he would answer at the end of the show, which included everything from curiosity about his favorite color to his most embarrassing moment, which eventually became a slew of exchanged insults between him and the tweeting crowd.



CAB members with comedian Josh Wolf
Image: Jackie Buczkowski

"He's my favorite comedian!" said senior Leighann Cameraro, an enthusiastic fan. "I've followed him through his career on *Chelsea Lately* and through his comedy shows, so getting to actually meet him and talk to him was something I'll never forget."

"I think it went well," CAB's Comedy Chair Matt McLaughlin stated. "We filled all 500 chairs. He's an awesome guy, and it was a great performance. I'm really happy with him."

Wolf himself was pleased, noting, "this crowd played well with me. They laughed at me and themselves." Then, he remarked that Western New England University should be on the list of the places to see in Springfield.

To message Josh Wolf, follow him @joshwolfcomedy on Twitter. To see more of CAB's comedy shows, keep note of postings around campus and on Facebook.

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

1.) Carry a water bottle

Instead of wasting money and plastic on water bottles, buy a filter (they are relatively inexpensive and last a while) and use a fun refillable water bottle.

2.) Recycle!

It's especially green to recycle old paper, considering how much adds up from class notes, quizzes, newspapers, exams, term papers, and everything else printed out and typically thrown out. Also avoid throwing away cans, bottles, and cardboard.

3.) Limit the use of a car

Try to limit the use of a car; save money on gas and take a public bus (PVTA's rates are a mere $1.25), bike, or walk. Commuters can also consider carpooling if near enough to classmates.

Entertainment

Kodiak: A student's how-to guide

By: Corinne Gamache

Like taxes, traffic lights, and diets, we can't avoid Kodiak no matter what we think. The University has tried to prepare us for Kodiak since January, but I didn't watch the videos or enroll in the "Kodiak for Students" course. Much like how playing dead is supposed to keep real bears from eating you, I thought that if I refused to acknowledge Kodiak's existence, then I'd never have to deal with it. Sadly, though, that day has come, and on Monday, August 27 I took my first foray into the Kodiak system. I did not need the videos to help me log in; I am quite capable of typing in my user name and password, but after that, it was a bit murkier.

Once you log in, you will see your home page, which you can return to at any time by clicking the "My Home" link in the upper left-hand corner. This page shows all of your courses, your profile, any news from the Kodiak administration team, as well as links to get to your email, calendar, and yet another link to get to the D'Amour library home page. To get to the calendar, you click on the date in the upper-right hand corner. This calendar is actually really simple and has a great layout. It automatically schedules any events that have been posted in any of your courses (with each course in a different color) and you can change between Agenda, Day, Week, Month, and List views.

If you are an officer for a class, you will see two tabs in the main window in the middle of your Kodiak home page, the "My Courses" window. These should say "Faculty" and "Student" and you can toggle back and forth between them to get to all of your classes. For the rest of you, don't panic if all your classes don't show up since many professors and clubs aren't using Kodiak yet because they don't get it either. So one of the most important things to remember during the semester is to keep communicating with your professor to see what they'll be using Kodiak for. They understand that the switch to Kodiak has been difficult for everybody. I am expecting the "Kodiak ate my homework" excuse to catch on in the coming months.

If you stay on Kodiak for any length of time there is an obnoxious beeping noise that sounds every couple of minutes. Unless you find this beeping soothing, I assume you're going to want to turn it off. To do this, go to the "My Settings" window on the far left and select "Preferences." The only setting that really matters in these tabs is the "Pager" tab at the very end. (The "Appearance and Accessibility" tab lets you change the font size, which is helpful when you're trying to see the website on a small laptop screen. You can also change the font style to Comic Sans if you like that kind of thing.) In "Pager," you can choose from a variety of sounds that will make Kodiak ring like a 90's cell phone, or you can select "no sound" and continue to hold on to your sanity.

When you click onto a course, you'll be taken to a page with more windows, most notably the "Content Browser" and "News" windows. The Content Browser is neat (a different view can be seen when you click the "Content" link in the header above the windows) and shows a layout of everything that the professor has posted or will post in the class, including drop boxes, which are like the "Assignments" module from Manhattan. A cool little feature is the ability to bookmark certain posts to make it easier to find them again. This Content Browser looks like it will be the most important window in the class, while the News window looks like it will be a way for professors to draw attention to stuff posted in the Content Browser.

If you are within a course and you click the "Email" link on the very top (between "My Home" and "D'Amour Library") you will be able to send emails within the class much like the Post Office module of Manhattan. But these are emails, remember, so to see any of the messages you have to go to the owa.wne.edu site and hope that your class messages don't get lost among the University Post Summary emails. I have been told that there is a way to make emails from Kodiak classes go into different folders in OWA, so that's a possibility.

When writing an email from Kodiak, it's best to go into the Address Book, highlight the email addresses of the people you want to send it to, and copy and paste them into the "To:" part of the email. You should be able to just check mark the boxes of the people you want to send it to, but this function is a little wonky, so it's better to just copy and paste the addresses. So you write your email and add your attachments with no problem because that's just like any other email system out there, but because sending emails can't be too easy, Kodiak hides the "Send" button. It is a tiny, little button way the heck over on the right at the bottom.

Using Kodiak is like encountering a real bear, namely that you will be shouting and throwing things at it to make it go away. While it does take some time to get the hang of, some of its features, specifically the bookmarks and calendar, are really cool. Yes, there are the how-to videos and the sandbox class where you can learn how to get around Kodiak, but the best way to learn is to simply click on anything that looks interesting and find out what it does.

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

1.) Be sure to keep your doors locked.

2.) Do not travel alone at night. We encourage you to use the "Buddy System." Please remember the Campus Police Department offers a 24-hour escort service by calling 413-782-1411 or 413-782-1207.

3.) Blue Light Emergency Call Boxes are located throughout the campus for emergency use.

4.) Be alert to your surroundings. If you notice any suspicious activity, please report it to the Campus Police Department immediately.

5.) The University also offers personal safety programs for all members of the WNE community through the Office of Residence Life and Campus Police.

In addition, the Annual Campus Security Report provides you with valuable information including crime statistics, crime prevention, security policies and procedures, and how to report crimes or suspicious activity.

The Western New England Campus Police department is available for you 24 hours a day, everyday. Please save the Campus Police phone numbers, 413-782-1411 and 413-782-1207, in your cell phone and/or in your other personal phone directories.

Your safety and success is our top priority.

www.wne.edu/dps

FEATURES

Western New England clubs

Here at Western New England University, student involvement is a priority for many. With over 60 clubs to choose from on campus, getting involved is just a matter of finding the right one. Some currently active clubs are featured below.

American Marketing Association:

Interested in marketing and advertising? Want to learn more about these fields and experience them with fellow students? Join the University's Collegiate Chapter of the American Marketing Association! Aside from being a great resume builder, joining the AMA gives students the chance to win scholarships, as well as compete in nationwide marketing contests. Those interested are welcome at meetings, which begin September 13th at 12:30pm in La Riv 101, and continue bi-weekly on Thursdays at the same time and location.

Campus Activities Board

Did you attend Casino Night, The 9:00 Avengers movie screaning, Comedian Josh Wolf comedy show, or WNEPalooza? Do you want to be a part of making amazing events like those come to life? The Campus Activities Board is an all-inclusive, all fun, group of students who do every aspect of programming from start to finish. We have nine subcommittees specializing in different areas of programming for you to choose from. Time with CAB will help you build strong friendships, organization and event planning skills, and a strong sense of family amongst the WNE community.

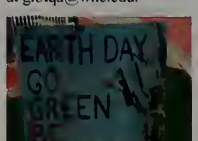
If you are interested in joining CAB please join us on September 11 for an informational session.

Community Action Rewards Everyone

WNE's community service club, Community Action Rewards Everyone (CARE), provides students opportunities to volunteer. They offer programs and projects to work with different populations, including children and youth, senior citizens, the environment, and the homeless. In CARE, the volunteers make connections with their fellow students as well as the communities in which they work. Time and location of meetings to be announced.

The Gay/Straight Alliance

The Gay/Straight Alliance is a club on campus that supports respect, acceptance, and diversity. Some events that GSA hosts throughout the year are Ally Week, Day of Silence, and Transgender Remembrance Day. To join the GSA, come to our meetings, which will be held Mondays at 5pm in the Mass Mutual Room, which is located in the D'Amour Library! For more information email us at glbtqa@wne.edu.



Global Sustainability Club

This isn't just another "green team" that focuses entirely on environmental action; the Global Sustainability Club emphasizes sustainability itself, including environmental, as well as economic and social. The club discusses issues that the students care most about, and works to educate the campus on such issues. Join us at our first meeting on Monday, September 10 in the campus center in CC4, and we'll discuss all the possible trips and projects that interest you.

Golden Bear Television

Golden Bear Television, better known as GBTV, is Western New England University's student-run television station. GBTV offers students the opportunity to learn different aspects of television production, as well as bring their ideas to the airwaves. Revived in the spring of 2010, GBTV has continued to grow in its quality of work, as well as viewership. Since the beginning, we have turned channel 8.2 into an exciting and compelling viewing experience. GBTV is always looking to expand membership and open to new ideas for programming. Membership is open to any undergraduate and no prior video production experience is necessary! To join, attend our general meeting, every Thursday at 7:00 pm in the TV studio (ground floor of D'Amour Library). We'll see you on 8.2!

The Martial Arts Club

The WNE Martial Arts team is a non-NCAA athletic team consisting of multiple styles of Martial Arts that competes in a collegiate circuit across New England and the Tri-State area. Any student is welcome to join, regardless of experience. There are members ranging from 3rd degree black belts to members who joined without a bit of experience. Practices are from 7-9pm on Mondays and Thursdays in the HLC, and consist of sparring, exciting workouts ranging from cardio to muscle isolation exercises. For more information contact Jenn Trevor at jt300617@wne.edu.

College of Pharmacy
Western New England University WNE

The Pre-Pharmacy Club

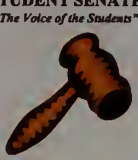
The Pre-Pharmacy Club is a new club on campus this year. The Pre-Pharmacy Club provides support and information for students interested in applying into Western New England University's Pharmacy school. We hold sessions with career counselors, Pharmacy professors, current Pharmacy school students, and host a wide range of events, from volunteer work to a Spring formal. The Pre-Pharmacy Club is a great way to learn about pharmacy jobs in the area, as well as complete community service hours. Stop by our booth at the Student Activities Expo Thursday September 6th to sign up! Our first meeting is Tuesday September 11th at 1:30 pm in CSP 200.

Residence Hall Association

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the second largest student organization on campus. RHA's goal is to help provide residence halls with fun, substance-free programs and facilities to best serve the interests of students living on campus. To that end, the association's elected representatives from each hall/area work with housing staff on residents' behalf.

For more information about joining RHA, there will be an information session on Thursday, September 6 at 1:00 PM in the LaRiviere Great Room. Election Packets are available through Kodiak in your residence hall classroom. Elections will be held online on Wednesday September 12, from 8:00-10:00 pm.

STUDENT SENATE
"The Voice of the Students"



Student Senate

Is it in you? Join Student Senate and represent your university so you can make a difference!

Pick up an election packet in Student Activities in the Campus center. Packets are due September 14. Let your voice be heard. Elections for your Senate Representatives are Septemeber 19.

WNEK

Do you love music? Do you love radio? Want to have your voice heard across campus and beyond? By joining WNEK-FM, students have the opportunity to run their own two-hour long radio show once a week. Getting involved with the station allows students to be heard not only around Springfield on 107.1FM, but also streaming worldwide online.

This is only a small selection of the clubs Western New England has to offer. If you'd like your club to be represented, please contact us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: thewesternersn@yahoo.com

Entertainment & Opinion

Good Vibrations: WNEPalooza

By: Cara Federici

Parachute performs for students on Commonwealth Lawn
Image: Hannah Berling

WNE's Campus Activities Board never ceases to amaze me with each new talent welcomed on campus to perform live, and this year's WNE Palooza held on Sunday, September 1, on Commonwealth Lawn, was exceptionally enjoyable.

The eclectic group of musical guests was guaranteed to please music lovers, featuring country artist Russell Dickerson, melodious hip-hop wonders Thick as Thieves, and pop rock pleasers Parachute. As no surprise to me, each act kept the crowd interested while WNE students tie-dyed, got airbrush tattoos, and joined in on other fun activities nearby before grabbing a burger from the food tent.

Tennessee native Russell Dickerson performed first, only to be greeted by an unexpected torrential downpour that caused students to scatter back to their residence halls. A little rain does not do very much harm, so I stayed to listen and I was impressed by a large group of students who also stuck around to puddle-jump and show support for the country artist and his downright danceable tunes. After having a quick word with Russell post performance, he revealed that he was terrified of being electrocuted at one point, but he was extremely grateful that a large group of students stayed to listen to his music. If you missed his set because you couldn't find your rain boots in time, head over to iTunes or Russell's YouTube channel and check out his music video for his hit "That's My Girl".

The storm clouds rolled away leaving only clear, blue skies for the second unique set of the day performed by Thick as Thieves. The Californians put on a memorable show, combining their hip hop style with contrasting harmonies that endlessly intrigued. It was interesting to see how each song would pan out once listeners realized each member added a truly brilliant aspect to the energy vibrating through each exclusive chord or lyric rapped by their MC, Nick Richey. Thick as Thieves have ensured to satisfy almost every musical taste covering songs from artists such as Bruno Mars and Eminem to Adele and Mumford & Sons. If you're craving some new free music, look no further than thievesmusic.com where you can find a legal download of their EP that will most likely leave you wanting more.

By the time each country chord was plucked and every last lyric rapped, the rain hardly left a visible mark on Commonwealth Lawn, besides a small number of nearby puddles. Regardless, fold-up chairs were drawn by students eager to hear the main performance of the day by the Charlottesville, Virginia based band, Parachute.

Prior to their set, Editor-In-Chief Chantel Branco and I sat down with the band to ask them a few questions. Formerly known as Sparky's Flaw, the charming five man band changed their name to Parachute in 2008. When I inquired about the reason for their name change, lead singer Will Anderson revealed, "It was do or die. Did we really want to be known as Sparky's Flaw for the rest of our career? We were known as Sparky's Flaw when we formed back in high school and figured it was time for a change." One element of the band that didn't change was their enticing sound when they released a second album together entitled *The Way It Was* last year. The band is consistently earning their spot in the music industry while touring with artists such as Kelly Clarkson, Goo Goo Dolls, and Kate Voegele.

Despite stating that the band's favorite show to date was in front of 10,000 people, Anderson was quick to comment that the band was very excited to play a smaller show at WNE; he even admitted to researching some information about our University prior to visiting so that he could get to know the school better. I couldn't help but think he has a sharp memory, because he was reciting campus statistics during our interview only to leave Chantel asking if Anderson would like a job as a tour guide with Admissions (Admissions wouldn't mind, right?).

One of my favorite questions to ask musically talented individuals is if given the opportunity to pick any living or deceased artist to sign on for a world tour, who would be chosen? Each member of Parachute collectively agreed that they would each want to tour with Bruce Springsteen and U2 - now that's what I call a beautiful day.

After our interview, the gentlemen continued to charm the crowd The band seemed to be having a good time performing hit songs "Something to Believe In", "She Is Love", and my personal favorite, "Kiss Me Slowly" amid a cover of Ryan Adam's "When the Stars Go Blue" when Russell Dickerson joined his friends on stage to rock out in the sunshine.

I hope that WNE Palooza is not the last time that any of the artists will grace our campus with their brilliant sounds. In the meantime, each artist's music is available on iTunes so that you can enjoy a mini WNE Palooza all over again in your own humble abode minus the sopping wet jeans and flooded shoes from Sunday.

Open yourself up to joy

By: Hannah Berling

As the school year starts and people settle back into class, work, and clubs, we begin to interact with new people and let's face it, we begin making assumptions and judgments about the people around us.

Even in college we generalize people, cast them as "outcasts" or "weird," and we think that because people look or act differently than us, that we don't have common ground with them. It can be easy to see only our differences rather than our similarities.

This summer I had the chance to be part of an eye-opening experience that was a perfect example of people uniting with a common passion.

People who know me know I am, by definition, "Hannah Berling, girl addicted to all things Glee." Yes, I laugh about it too. Yes, I call myself "obsessed." And yes, I am aware I over analyze everything about the show because I have seen every episode at least five times. Being part of the Glee fandom though, is more than just loving the show, it is about embracing yourself no matter your story, appearance, or lifestyle.

My love of Glee led me to New York City in the middle of July, to attend a book signing from Glee star Chris Colfer, who wrote a children's novel at the age of 22. 449 other "Gleeks" and I sat in Barnes and Noble for five hours waiting for the signing to begin. An employee started playing Glee CDs on the store's stereo system, and that is when it happened: a room full of people with a common interest came together. No one knew each other, but it was instantly a room full of friends. Before I knew it people where on their feet dancing, singing, laughing, and encouraging other completc strangers to do the same. Nothing about who you were mattered, whether you were skinny, fat, short, tall, old, or young. We were all Gleeks, nothing else mattered.

There is a saying in the Gleek community, "Glee is about opening yourself up to joy," but really that statement should apply to any group you are in: "(fill in group here) is about opening yourself up to joy." If we can unite with a common passion, nothing else should matter. As a student leader, I cannot imagine casting someone out of one of my groups because they look or act differently than me. Isn't that what individuality is about?

So, as you begin joining clubs, adding members to clubs you are currently in, or mingling with classmates, remember that there is a common passion between everyone in that group. Remember that you don't know everyone's story, nor do you need to. Looks, background, race, gender, sexuality, none of those matters. All it takes is one common passion to turn 450 strangers into a group of friends.

Sports

Upcoming Events:

(Home games are in bold)

Friday Sept. 7
Women's Volleyball vs. Western Connecticut State 7:00 pm

Saturday Sept. 8
Women's Volleyball vs Westfield State University 11:00 am
Women's Cross Country at Smith College Invitational 11 am
Men's Golf at Trinity College Fall Invitational 11 am
Men's Cross Country at Smith College Invitational 11:45 am
Women's Tennis at Endicott 12:00 pm
Women's Soccer vs DeSales University 1:00 pm
Women's Volleyball vs Emerson College 1:00 pm
Football vs Westfield State (President's Cup) 1:00 pm
Men's Soccer at Manhattanville 1:00 pm
Field Hockey at Simmons 1:00 pm

Sunday Sept. 9
Men's Golf at Trinity College Fall Invitational 10:30 am
Women's Soccer at Simmons College 2:30 pm
Men's Soccer vs DeSales (Pa.) 6:00 pm

Tuesday Sept. 11
Women's Tennis vs Roger Williams 3:30 pm
Women's Soccer vs University of Massachusetts Boston 4 pm
Field Hockey at WPI 4:30 pm
Women's Volleyball vs Johnson & Wales 7:00 pm

Wednesday Sept. 12
Women's Tennis vs Massachusetts College 3:30 pm
Men's Soccer vs Keene State 4:00 pm

Thursday Sept. 13
Women's Soccer vs Springfield College 4 pm
Women's Volleyball at Southern Vermont 7 pm

Western New England University
Home of the Golden Bears!

Good luck to all fall athletic teams!

Interested in sports?

Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears?
Have a knack for journalism or writing in general?
The Westerner would love to have you!
We are looking for any students who has an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write a WNE sports related articles per issue.
If you are interested please contact us at thewesternersn@yahoo.com
or on Twitter @wne_westerner
or via our facebook page!
Join us at one of our meetings held Tuesdays at 5pm in Rivers 105.
We want you to become part of the Westerner team!

FALL ATHLETICS RECORDS*

Football:
Wins: 0
Losses: 1
Conference Play: No games yet played

Men's Golf:
No tournaments played

Men's Cross Country:
Placings: 25/34 on 9/1/12

Women's Field Hockey:
Wins: 0
Losses: 1
Ties: 0
conference play: No games yet played

Men's Soccer:
Wins: 11
Losses: 1
Ties: 0
Conference Play: No games yet played

Women's Soccer:
Wins: 2
Losses: 0
Ties: 0
Conference Play: No games yet played

Women's Cross Country:
Placings: 1st of 3 teams on 9/1/12

***All results as of 9/4/12**

The Official Student Newspaper of Western New England University

The Westerner

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Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Western New England celebrates Herman Hall

By: Hannah Berling

President Capria cutting the ceremonial ribbon at the rededication
Image: Hannah Berling

A large crowd gathered in the rain on Tuesday, October 2 to witness the rededication of the newly renovated Herman Hall.

The rededication was a component of the 2012 Fall Gathering, which was themed "Inspiring Minds." The ceremony featured student volunteers dressed as historical figures of significance in the arts and sciences, as well as speeches from Provost Jerry Hirsch, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Kevin Delbridge, and President Caprio.

"We have a tradition of developing facilities that meet the needs of our constituencies," President Caprio stated while reflecting on the changes made to Herman Hall.

Originally dedicated on October 25, 1964, Herman Hall was inially named "West Building." The original construction allowed for Western New England's facilities to be relocated from downtown at the Springfield YMCA to its current position on Wilbraham Road. The building was renamed Herman Hall to honor Pres-

Continued an page 2

Students volunteer with the Green Apple Day of Service

By: John Arvanitis

Volunteers gather for a graup picture during the day's programs
Image: Michael Eriquezza

On Saturday, September 29, Western New England University's Global Sustainability Club and C.A.R.E. teamed up with The Children's Study Home , and organization that works with at-risk youth, to participate in the national day of community action known as the Green Apple Day of Service.

Mygreenapple.org sites this day as, "...advocates from around the world, including students, teachers, parents, and elected officials...[coming] together in support of healthy, sustainable schools by taking action in their communities." According to mygreenapple.org, 1,256 projects around the world in 49 countries took place on Sept. 29 for the first-ever Green Apple Day of Service. The Green Apple organization is attempting to make this day of service an annual event that has increased participation with each passing year.

Students from each campus organization worked on site at the Children's Study Home with Teresa Spaziani, a WNEU Alumni Class of 2012 and the Community Relations and Development Associate for The Children's Study Home to revitalize the school's appearance and overall sustainability. While some students worked outside mulching, pulling up weeds, and raking, others were inside making signs with the kids from The Study Home. These signs were designed to have messages about sustainability that could be posted anywhere around the school with free wall space.

"The Green Apple Day of Service was a great example of how a few people can make a huge difference," stated Spaziani. "Within a matter of a few hours the volunteers turned the entire Mill Pond campus around. I hope that other Western New England University students can have similar experiences and understand the importance of getting involved in the Springfield community."

The student volunteers from Western New England University all seemed to take great pride in being involved with this day of giving. Freshman and member of the Global Sustainability Club, Shannon Hines certainly, certainly valued her experience that morning, stating, "It was a worthwhile way to get involved and help brighten the lives of anyone associated with the school."

News

Students attend Micromouse workshop

By: Alexandra Carter

WNE engineering students pose for a photo with Soon Wan, a Micromouse expert
Image: Alexandra Carter

On September 21, members of WNE's branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) traveled to the University of Massachusetts Amherst to attend a workshop on Micromouse. Micromouse is a design competition in which engineers design, build, and program a small autonomous robotic vehicle so that it can analyze an unknown maze and determine the fastest route through that maze. On the day of the competition, the vehicles are given a small amount of time to navigate and memorize the maze. The vehicles are then judged by how quickly they can complete the maze while avoiding bumping into walls.

Membership Development Chair of the Region 1 IEEE chapter Soon Wan presented the workshop. Wan has participated in Micromouse competitions for over 20 years. He has received much recognition for his work, and has also won many Micromouse competitions, such as the 1992 International Micromouse Competition in Hong Kong.

Wan began the lecture by giving an introduction to Micromouse and showing videos of past competitions. He then gave an overview on what is required to design a successful Micromouse: performance, hardware design, and software design. He described the components needed for implementation of the vehicle, such as sensors, motors, power, and algorithms for navigating the maze and storing the data.

After his presentation, there was a social hour where attendees were able to ask questions and look at Micromice samples while enjoying refreshments. The students were able to meet Wan and other members of IEEE. The students from WNE reported that they were pleased with the presentation and the opportunity to learn more about Micromouse.

"It was great to sit in on a lecture given by a senior member of IEEE and learn about something they have a great passion for," said Senior Kyle Hunter.

Senior Kevin Murray also found attending the presentation worthwhile. "It was inspiring being able to listen to a world champion Micromouse designer," Murray said. "The Micromouse competition sounds like an interesting endeavor that could propel the College of Engineering program at Western New England University into the future of robotics."

Leo Belval, a senior electrical engineering student who acts as Vice President of the university's IEEE chapter, organized the group trip to UMass for the workshop. "We hosted an IEEE event at WNE last spring, and there I met Dan Williams, the chairman of Springfield chapter of IEEE. Dan told me about the Micromouse Competition and said that he might organize a workshop. I was contacted this summer and told that there was going to be a workshop at Umass with Soon Wan. I then arranged for Western New England University students to attend the workshop."

Belval also discussed his plans for Micromouse's future at Western New England University. He plans to try to organize a team at the next IEEE meeting. He is also planning to go to freshmen and sophomore-level classes and talk to students about joining a team. "I think the workshop went very well," said Belval. "We learned about the competition from a very experienced person, and we learned many techniques for implementing the Micromouse robot. I would very much like to get a team going at WNE if the interest is there."

Herman rededication cont. from first page.

ident Beaumont A. Herman, who helped lead this major transformation.

"Dr. Herman served as President for 21 years (1955-1976); he remained committed to this university for another 20 years until his death in 1995," President Caprio said while reflecting on Herman's commitment to the University.

Plans to renovate Herman Hall began with the building of the Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy and the relocation of science labs.

"Rather than raise this iconic building, we invested in a much needed top-down, inside-out renovation," Chairman of the Board of Trustees Kevin Delbridge said of the decision to make changes to the building.

Now, after its renovation, Herman Hall is equipped with new classrooms, computer labs, and art facilities, along with expanded Writing Resource and Math Centers, and has the new home of Student Disabilities Services.

"You have to have seen the old building to really recognize everything that's happened," said Provost Jerry Hirsch about the renovation. "All of this combines to enhance student creativity and student success."

President Caprio also drew attention to one of the changes on the outside of the building, the addition of placards stating the names of notable minds in the arts and sciences. These include intellectuals such as Isaac Newton, Galileo, William Wordsworth, and Da Vinci, among others. There are also blank spaces on the building that the University hopes to one day adorn with names of alumni who become the next great mind of the arts or sciences.

All the changes made to Herman Hall were made in hopes to help meet student needs better for many years in to the future.

Chairman Delbridge said that the renovation of Herman Hall, along with all of the changes that have been made to campus over the years, help inspire the minds of students. "We are meeting the needs of our students changing needs with a 24/7 philosophy of services and activities."

At the end of the ceremony, a ribbon was cut to officially observe the rededication of Herman Hall as a facility where educators will continue to inspire minds for years to come.

"Working together I am confident we are poised for even a greater future," President Caprio concluded.

News

Student Senate hosts fundraiser at High Five

By: Chantel Branco

"Come help Student Senote roise some cold, hord, cosh" wos the slogon used to promote the fundroiser.

On Friday May 28, Western New England University's Student Senate hosted a fundraiser at the High-Five, a frozen yogurt place, which recently opened just across the street from campus. Student Senate put on the event in hopes of raising money to cover Senate group outings and club apparel that exceeds the amount allotted for such spending, so that Senate members would pay less, or nothing, out of pocket.

The Westerner spoke with Senate's Finance Committee chairperson, Holden Canty, who stated that, "it is important to abide by the rules laid out for clubs, which include limits on apparel, food etc., so we wanted to lead by example and raise money for excess costs."

Clubs may look into similar fundraising events for reasons such as covering the costs of outings, apparel, sending club members to conferences, and other special events.

The first step to consider when setting up a fundraiser is to brainstorm what students might be interested in and how to find opportunities to fill that need. The organizer of the fundraiser should check with the office of Student Activities to make sure that there are no competing fundraisers on the day they have selected and also to fill out a simple fundraising guide form for the Student Activities office detailing the plans for the event, so that they can carryout the club's requests.

Important aspects to keep in mind while planning a fundraising event are to select a date, time, and place that are easily accessible to maximize participation, and to publicize the event. Effective methods of publicity may include social media, flyers, posters on the brick wall, and word of mouth, which Canty suggested as perhaps the most influential method.

"Publicizing for your fundraiser is vital to its success," stated Canty, encouraging students to get the word out.

Adam Cruz, President of Student Senate, stated: "Our hope is that upon seeing this fundraiser other clubs and organizations will also take initiative to host fundraising events both on campus and off. So our take away, and the takeaway we hope others share, is that student senate is devoted to leading the way in terms of fundraising initiative and that the student senate will continue to work to ensure that students receive the best deal they can for the their student activities fee."

Although Student Senate would like campus clubs to be aware of the fact that they can take the initiative to raise some money on their own, it is in no way an announcement to deter clubs from requesting funds from Senate in the future.

"We hope that clubs will be proactive in raising money to help cover their own costs, but clubs and organizations should know that Student Senate is here to support them, and we encourage them to approach us for help when necessary" stated Canty.

Students to compete in Golden Voice competition

By: Andrea Melone

Be sure to keep up with the Golden Voice as they lead up to the final show!
Image: Golden Bear Television

For the second year, Golden Bear Television (GBTV) will put a spotlight on a selection of students at Western New England in The Golden Voice competition to determine the best singers on campus. The final portion of the competition will take place on November 16 at 9:00pm, in Rivers Arena.

Several brave students signed up to try out, hoping to be entered into the collection of 10 students to perform for the campus. Before the finale competition, the contestants sang for GBTV in television episodes, with two students per episode. Along with singing for the camera, they will be interviewed in the in studio shows. These episodes will air on GBTV in the weeks leading up to the finale for students to see who the contestants are ahead of time.

Like the previous year, a selection of judges as well as audience voters will select the winners; however, unlike last year, the judges will be faculty rather than students. The audience's top pick will be the first place winner, and the judges will select the second and third place winners.

Also different from last year, the competition will be held in Rivers, rather than the Rock Café. GBTV is hoping for a larger audience this year, given the competition's popularity last year. This may, however, be tricky, given the different location, and that it follows other events in Rivers, including a chorus concert.

"Due to the fact that The Golden Voice is happening in Rivers Arena this year, I believe advertising is going to have to be much stronger than it was last year," stated GBTV's promotions manager, Kevin Babcock. "When the event was in the Campus Center, we could rely on having some people show up just because they were already there eating or hanging out. While in Rivers, we won't have that privilege."

In order to encourage students to attend, Babcock is planning various promotional mediums: "I will take charge in putting up large posters and small flyers in residence halls, academic buildings, and the Campus Center. Lately GBTV has been playing episodes aof last year's finale of The Golden Voice on channel 8.2 to strike up more interest. We will also heavily utilize social networks to spread the word, such as Facebook and Twitter. Lastly, I am in the process of designing and purchasing a couple of large banners to further promote this event," Babcock explained. "We are all looking forward to the second annual production of The Golden Voice and think it will be a huge success.

Leighann Camarero, this year's host of The Golden Voice, is hopeful as well about the event. "I was a contestant last year," she said. "I like taking a step back, and seeing that everyone has a good time."

"We have a great lineup of talented singers ready to entertain everybody, and some celebrity judges in store," stated last year's host, Chris Morgan. "WNEK has partnered with us again this year and will provide a multi-platform distribution of the show, on radio, television, and online. I think this year's program will come together much smoother than last year's, given that we have a better idea of what to expect. Plus the spectators will have a much better viewing experience. This year, we will have plenty of food, more creative camera angles, and a more spacious venue."

"The Golden voice is really fun," said Matt Johnston, one of last year's contestants competing again this year. "I had lots of fun last year, and I intend to have lots of fun this year."

The event itself, Camarero explains, is done a lot like American Idol. Instead of being named the American Idol, though, the victors will have the prestige of winning the Golden Voice and getting "sweet prizes."

Be sure to keep a lookout for more information to come, and watch GBTV to see a sneak peek of this year's contestants.

Entertainment

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Movie Review: Finding Nemo in 3D

By: Andrea Melone

Normally, I question the idea of re-releasing a movie in 3D, because it seems like a ploy to make more money. Although I haven't yet seen any of the other re-releases like Titanic or The Lion King to give a fair opinion, I was skeptical, wondering if making them 3D was really necessary.

On a Friday night, I decided to go to the movies with some friends to see Finding Nemo in 3D, despite my hesitancy. I was prepared to enjoy a movie I already like, and marvel in the surround sound and widescreen, and appreciate some of the visuals that could be enhanced in 3D. I figured it would at least be worth the money to see it on the big screen the movie theater experience I hadn't had previously.

I was surprised and pleased; the 3D effects enhanced the visuals tremendously. Scenes in which the "camera" zooms around in the ocean, between reefs and anemones, flashing past fish and sea creatures, were more vivid and realistic than the traditional 2D. I could feel the depth of the water and the magnitude of the ocean. It was almost intimidating at times, plunging into what felt like a real sea world, even in the unnaturally neon colors. In the fish tank in particular, the space actually felt 3 dimensional, with Peach sticking to the wall, and Deb chatting with her "sister" Flo's reflection. Marlin and Dory really did speed in a tunneling flash through the E.A.C. with Crush and Squirt. The jellyfish scene in particular was thrilling, rushing through the tentacles, feeling trapped in the swarm. Sitting towards the front of the theater, with explosive colors and sounds engulfing me, I was mesmerized, the film seeming surreal.

Obviously, the plot didn't change, and it was the same wonderfully amusing movie. It was thoroughly entertaining reciting memorable lines like "Fish are friends, not food," and singing "just keep swimming, just keep swimming," with Dory, and screeching attempts to speak whale (quietly, so as not to ruin the experience for anyone else in the audience). But Nemo, Dory, and Marlin seemed to swim right in front of me; Nigel and the stalking seagulls seemed to really be flying around me; I felt like I was submerged in the ocean and swimming through the ocean life with the other fish. Despite the unrealistic florescent colors, the ocean was convincingly real.

I doubted the necessity of altering a movie to make it 3D, but I did see at least a little more credibility to changing an animated movie than a live-action film, because live-action film characters are already real, while animated films are drawings coming to life and making them 3D can enhance the "realness" of the characters. Even the commercials were in 3D, all for animated movies, and that was exciting, as the ads were obviously made to demonstrate some of the exceptionally thrilling 3D effects. Given the style and location of the story, enhancing the movie to give it the 3D effect only worked in favor of Finding Nemo. I'm a little unsure about the re-release of Monsters Inc, even though I'm a fan of the film, because most of the scenery won't be augmented the same way, with the exception of the scene with doors – THAT will be spectacular. As for Finding Nemo 3D, it was definitely worth Disney/Pixar's efforts.

Folk songs and Coffee Shops, Peter Mulvey music review

By: Spencer Ives

On Wednesday, September 26, in a Shelburne Falls coffee shop by the name of Mocha Maya's, folk artist Peter Mulvey stopped on his bicycle tour to play music for a small late night crowd.

It's easy to overlook the low-scaled venues as well as the not-so-well-known artists, so this review is designed to shine a spotlight on just one. For quite a few years now, Peter Mulvey has been playing elegant songs with true and honest lyrics. His songs range in topics from large issues - "... Do you smell the future? Well, it smells like gasoline"- to poetic outlooks - "Raven on a roof in the sideways light, emptiness black against monochrome bright, filling up my dreams with a monologue"- to simple anecdotes as interludes between music, spaces where he shares stories. He'll stop in the middle of the CD to talk about how he comes up with a character for a song, or a chat he had with an astrophysicist from the Czech

A picture of Peter on his 2011 bike tour
Image: Josh Stevens via petermulvey.com

Republic. One of the most memorable things is the consistent level of beauty in most of his songs; almost all of them come across as more thoughtful and poignant than the last.

Across all the themes and topics that are present in Mulvey's music, there are a few things about him that seem quite constant. The first thing that presents itself to the listener is his acoustic guitar style that opens most songs. He has a specific percussive style, allowing the low strings to slap against the guitar and give a deep rasp to offset the gentle and intricate melodies played in higher octaves.

This style of music serves as a fine accompaniment to his voice. Mulvey carries with him a distinctively deep but light voice that serves to match the rasp of the guitar with a bit of gravel in his voice as well as to hit the higher notes and vocally pair the brighter melodies. While this is a wonderful range, neither the highs nor the lows of his voice are used half-hazardly; wherever he happens to be in the vocal spectrum fits right along with the song he's playing.

Unknown to quite a few, Peter Mulvey has released over 15 CDs over the last 20 or so years. He travels around this country and others, occasionally on bicylce, beforeplaying in small places like Mocha Maya's. Having given this much time and effort into the craft, and showing that through both his words and his music, he is definitely worth a listen.

Features

Good Vibrations: Seth Glier Review

By: Cara Federici

"Do the next right thing or the next thing right" Massachusetts native Seth Glier sharply sings on his title track "The Next Right Thing" from his sophomore album *The Next Right Thing* (2011). Glier's movingly unique sound bleeds through his music captivating the attention of music lovers across the United States.

Western New England University has been lucky enough to be graced with Glier's prowess on numerous occasions during the past few years for lunchtime concerts in Room 319 within D'Amour Library. My first melodic memory of Glier was watching him perform in the library during my sophomore year at WNE. I was intrigued not only by his heartbreakingly raw and relatable lyrics, but also by his unbelievable piano skills.

Pianos are my favorite instrument because I think there is a powerfully soothing beauty in the pleasing sound that emanates from each key. I can be anywhere in the world, yet feel ultimately at home when listening to musicians play a piano. I think I was initially drawn to the library that day because I had discovered Glier was a pianist and the best thing about pianos is I haven't found one yet that doesn't sound magnificent live. I'm glad that I attended that lunchtime concert because there is a luminously distinctive tone to Glier's music that defines him as a musician. I don't think that I have ever heard another artist similar to his impressive talent.

I remember sitting in the library before the concert that day, thinking to myself that Glier reminded me of Thackery Binx from *Hocus Pocus* (which for the record, isn't a bad thing) and I couldn't help but be awed by his overall performance. The phrase "don't judge a book by its cover" was evident that day because I did not know such a powerful voice resided within such a seemingly quiet shell. My notion that Glier is a fantastic musician was confirmed the instant he belted the first falsetto note and I got goose bumps.

In a quick Q & A session post performance, one professor asked Glier if he ever considers himself a poet because his lyrics are effortless poems combined with perfect music to create an exceptionally exclusive sound. Glier's response was not expected because he nonchalantly revealed that he does not consider himself a poet at all. I think there is a pure rhythmical nature to Glier's music that creates such an honest relation between his words and music.

See Seth Glier live on campus on October 18 in the D'Amour Library!

Image: wne.edu

Hailing not too far from WNE in Massachusetts, Glier has performed at wonderful local venues such at the Iron Horse in Northampton, MA, and of course at Western New England University. I was actually so impressed with Glier's live performance my sophomore year that I dragged a friend of mine to his show at the Iron Horse a few nights after his WNE appearance.

Besides his own tunes that he performed that evening, I distinctly remember his cover of The Beatles' song "Let It Be" because it left me wide-eyed and wanting to rewind the performance to listen again; luckily, YouTube is rather resourceful in that nature. You can search Seth Glier on YouTube and listen to old and new songs alike. Check out my personal favorites "The Trouble With People" and "Gotta Get Away" off of his first album, *The Trouble With People*, among "The Next Right Thing" and "Walk Katie Home" off of his newest album, *The Next Right Thing* that was released in 2011; you never know, he just might win you over.

After all, he won over the library because, you can check-out a copy of Glier's first album, *The Trouble With People*, available in the CD section on the first floor of D'Amour! Keep an eye out for his second record that will be processed soon.

If you enjoy what you hear, enjoy live pianists or need a study break, I can assure you will be exceedingly impressed with Glier's live performance at 12:00 PM in Room 319 of D'Amour on October, 18, 2012.

In A Nutshell: An Advice Column

Q: Is it okay to be undecided about my major, will that put me behind? –S.I.

A: ***She Says:*** It is absolutely and perfectly fine to be undecided in your major! Sure, there are a bunch of students who go into college knowing what they want to major in, and who stick with it throughout their college career. However, there are plenty of students who go in not really sure of what they want to do for the rest of their lives. I am one of them! So I know exactly what you are going through in your thinking process. I also know a ton of people who have changed their majors four or five times before they graduated. Just because right now you are interested in doing one thing, does not mean that it is set in stone, you can still choose to switch it, maybe even more than once, before getting your degree.

As far as "will it put you behind," that depends on how you think about it. In one regard, knowing exactly what you want to do, and not changing your mind means that you will get all your required classes done, won't be taking anything unnecessary, and will only be learning about subjects that pertain to your major and thus who's information helps you in your field. However, if you decide you might change majors, or just remain undeclared entirely, you will just, most likely, be taking a broader spectrum of courses, until you find something that sticks with you, that you enjoy, and that you can see yourself making a career out of. So in truth, you won't be behind at all.

Do not let yourself believe, or let anyone tell you that you need to choose a major right now. You have plenty of time, and choosing too quickly may only make you more unsure of what you want to do. For now, just keep your options open, and find whatever you are truly passionate in; finding something you love to do will make it that much easier to decide if you want to make a lifelong career of it.

He Says: YES. It is okay. College is a time to explore. And believe me, you WILL have time. And no, it will not impact you academically. You are allowed to remain in your exploratory major until the end of sophomore year. That's two whole years. You have time. In that respect, by not making a choice, you have in fact made a choice.

There's a reason that colleges have reworded it to "exploratory" major instead of "undecided". "Undecided" makes it sound like you wouldn't know what you wanted to do in life if it punched you in the face. You have decided. You've decided to explore. You've made an opportunity to explore different options and figure out what you want. Don't waste it. Talk to some advisors. Talk to a peer mentor. Talk to your RA. They're there to help you. It's what they're trained to do. Think of your advisor as your guidance counselor. In high school, you received "guidance". Now, you're being "advised". See the difference? You've been guided enough. You've gotten a hard enough push to be peddling on your own, but now you need to decide where to go. Audit some classes that interest you. Hell, just sit in on some classes (we suggest that you ask permission from the professor first). The professional and educational goal of all your advisors and counselors and mentors in their entirety is the careful, calculated assessment of what makes you happy and then pursuing it. They aren't there just to sit at a desk and tell you "college is a time where…" blah blah blah. They want to help you.

If you would like to submit questions to the Westerner, please email us at our new email westerner@wnecluhs.org

Features

Upcoming Family and Friends Weekend festivities

By: Steph Elizondo

Anyone feeling homesick, missing family and friends? Well, not to worry, because it is about that time of year again: Western New England's traditional Family and Friends Weekend! Put together by the Campus Activities Board (CAB), it will take place this coming weekend, Friday, October 12 through Sunday, October 14. Besides being a time to see much anticipated visitors from home, this weekend will include a variety of entertaining activities for everyone.

Students can have parents, relatives, and friends show up as early as 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Friday for registration in the St. Germain Campus Center, Mall Area. The events for the weekend will commence with an interactive game of Jeopardy at 9:00 pm in Rivers Memorial Hall for everyone to attend. With dozens of prizes and more, it is bound to be a great time!

On Saturday, registration will continue from 9:00-11:00 am, for anyone who could not come on Friday. CAB members will roll out the red carpet at 11:00 am where there will be The Red Carpet Events, featuring spin art, baloon animals, sunglasses, photo magazine covers, and caricatures all at The Rock Café until 4:00 pm. They are on a first come, first serve basis, so be sure to get there early!

There will be a number of sporting events throughout the day including, of course, the football game, WNE vs. MIT at 1:00 pm.

Make sure you also leave time to attend the Residence Hall Association's annual Bed Race! Residence Halls have been working hard to build their beds to race down the Campus Utilities Building parking lot, so come show support for friends and cheer them on. The race starts at 3:30 pm, so be sure to make your way over by then to catch all of the excitement. After all the exciting festivities throughout the day, students can then sit down to dinner with their families from 4:30-6:30 pm in the dining hall, followed by a dessert reception at 7:30 pm in Rivers Memorial Hall. After dessert there is a show by Mission IMPROVable at 8:00 pm also in Rivers.

Finally, Sunday will feature "Hollywood Brunch" from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the dining hall, followed shortly after by an Art Gallery Reception featuring artist Mona Shiber from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Get your visitors involved in all the amazing events CAB and other campus organizations have planned for the weekend. With so much to do, parents and students alike are sure to find plenty to enjoy. We hope to see everyone and their families around for Family and Friends Weekend 2012!

For more information, download the event's brochure on the WNE website, or contact CAB.

The Westerner has a new e-mail! Please send all emails regarding articles, corrections, ads ect. to the new e-mail address at westerner@wne-clubs.org

Creative Corner: An original piece written by a WNE student

The Westerner is incorporating an original story in segments. Look for part 3 in the next issue of the Westerner!

By: Robert L. Gilchrist

Jason: Part 2

Captain Pelias walked to the front of the conference room and slammed a picture onto the blackboard behind him.

"Boys," he started, "We have a problem." He then pointed to the picture. "This is our problem. In the past three weeks, this Jason character has put more criminals in the hospital than we have put in the jails. This cannot stand." He then paused to let that statement sink in. One officer raised his hand. "Yes, Officer Polydectes?"

"Yeah, captain…why is he only wearing one shoe in that picture? I mean, is that part of his costume or just a new fashion statement?" The room was then filled with sniggers and muffled laughter.

"Why is he only wearing one shoe? Who gives a damn about why he's only wearing a single shoe! THIS MAN IS A MANIAC WHO NEEDS TO BE STOPPED!" This outburst suddenly caused all laughing to be stopped. "Now that I have your full undivided attention, I'm going to say what I need to say. This Jason is a bad example for the citizens. It's bad enough we have these armor-clad 'heroes' running about making us look bad, we don't need some crusading avenger who isn't afraid to crack some skulls to really show how ineffectual we can be.

"Because of this, as well as pressure from Senator Aeetes' office to see this madman stopped, I'm issuing an arrest warrant for the vigilante known as Jason. Any officer who sees this man is to arrest him on sight. Do I make myself clear?" Everyone was now nodding in agreement. "Good. Now go do your jobs and catch this maniac."

"I honestly don't see why this guy needs to be caught," said Iolaus. "I mean, he's taking down criminals and cleaning up the streets."

"He may be cleaning up the streets," responded Theseus, "But he's covering the city with a new level of grime. People are taking notice of his actions. Some news outlets are even *praising* his actions. The man is no better than a mob enforcer. He goes out and breaks some bones and suddenly everyone thinks he's a hero."

"Alright, so his methods are a little brutal. That doesn't mean we have to take him off the streets. What if we just talked to him? Made him clean up his act a little?"

"Because if we allow him to continue to act, in any regard, it's saying to the citizens that we can't control the brutality that's growing like a weed in this city. It shows that we're weak. We can't allow that to happen."

Iolaus nodded, and looked up to the statue of Heracles. It had been several weeks since the unveiling, and yet he couldn't help but keep thinking of his uncle. He hadn't really thought about him in months. He wondered why?

"They still haven't fixed the base," said Iolaus, indicating to the cracks in the marble that held the statue up.

"They say they will soon," said Theseus. He was looking around the graveyard for any indication of how Jason had gotten there without being noticed. "The city's going to get some workers out here soon to fill in the cracks with a little concrete."

"But…it won't hold," said Iolaus. "I mean, it'll hold for a little while, but it's only a temporary fix. It'll break down soon enough."

"A temporary fix is all that can be managed now," said Theseus.

"Like with your armor?" asked Iolaus, indicating to the grey cracks that had appeared in the black sheen of Theseus' armor where the bomber's bullet had struck.

"No. That's staying." he said.

"Why?" asked Iolaus. "I mean, why not take it to Daedalus and have him fix it?"

"Because it serves as a reminder to me."

"A reminder of what?"

"That I need to be faster." he said grimly. "Now stop messing around. We need to go talk to Rhadamanthys about the integrity of the south gates." With that, Iolaus turned away from the statue and followed Theseus off to the other end of the graveyard.

Orpheus had gone to his editor with the idea, but he had been shot down.

"It's a touchy subject right now," he had said. Even though Orpheus pleaded that this could elevate the paper to a new height it had never seen, his editor had still remained firm.

"Maybe in a month or two, when this has all blown over. Kind of like a hindsight piece."

Orpheus couldn't accept this. He was a journalist, he knew a good scoop when he saw one. And he knew if he could be the first one on top of this, he'd be a star in no time.

That afternoon he announced that he was taking a leave of absence from the paper. He said he was burned out, and that he could use a month or two of sabbatical. Everyone had said nice goodbyes and there had even been an impromptu party in the break room. But after all was said and done, he cleared off his desk and left the office of the Daily Scroll for a "much needed rest."

Only he wasn't resting. He was preparing.

Orpheus had spent all night designing the website. It wasn't pretty, and it hadn't been easy (he was no computer whiz; he always had I.T. guys for that). But in the end, he had designed what he thought was decent forum for his research.

"Good enough," thought Orpheus to himself as he finished the last of the designs. "Now for the important stuff." And with that, he typed the first entry into the blog that would change his life forever.

"Who is this mysterious character known as Jason? I don't know about you, but I want to find out."

To Be Continued…

Opinion & Puzzles

Give country music a chance

By: Sarah Wiles

Before coming to college, I was very set in the kind of music to which I listened. When I was looking for a pick-me-up, I tended toward either pop, like Britney Spears or Ke$ha, or hip-hop with a fun beat, like Nicki Minaj or Drake. If I felt like letting out some stress by belting out some killer vocals, I flipped on a Broadway musical soundtrack, like Wicked or Rent. If I was looking to vent out the frustrations of a stupid day, I threw on a good rock album, like Linkin Park's Hybrid Theory or Muse's Absolution.

These genres were pretty typical of my friend group in high school. We would jam to the current top 40's in the car, sing to classic show tunes during down time in chorus rehearsals, and immerse ourselves in the current top rock artists in attempts to feel "unique." We always, always claimed that country was the most annoying genre, and all they sang about were trucks, dogs, and bad romances. We were not impressed by the Southern twang accompanied by a guitar or banjo.

Suddenly, I came to WNE, and it seemed like everyone liked country. At first, I stood by my high school opinion; I refused to give country a chance. Yeah, there were those few songs everyone knew, like "Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy)" and "Need You Now." Then, of course, there are the cross-over country artists. The first one that comes to my mind is Taylor Swift, whose music crosses pretty strongly into the pop genre, but I got mad love for T-Swift.

Last year, my roommate, whose favorite genre is country, often had the Country Music Channel on the TV. I found myself picking favorites, and if she was playing music on her iTunes, I would request certain ones. Then, I started joining a few friends on their country radio show on WNEK, "Is It Friday Already?" I found myself slowly getting surrounded by country music.

This year, I have begun looking up country songs independently and putting them on my iTunes. I co-hosted the country radio show a few weeks ago, and I attended a Rodney Atkins free concert at the Big E. I can honestly tell you it was an awesome show. I have even started listening to the Toby Keith Pandora station. I definitely underestimated the appeal of country music. Yeah, they do sing about trucks, bad relationships, and sometimes even dogs, but country music gives it the kind of class and ease that turns a stressful day into a relaxed one.

Now, no matter what mood I am in—whether I want a pick-me-up, something to belt out, or something to vent out my bad day to, country is my go-to. If you are like I was, and you are refusing to give country music a chance, you are seriously missing out.

Grammy-nominated performer Seth Glier coming to D'Amour Library

Seth Glier, a seasoned performer and Massachusetts native, is a talented pianist and singer whose work encompasses multiple genres from pop to folk to blues and more.

Since his first album release in 2005, he has criss-crossed the country with over 200 tour dates, a momentous accomplishment at the age of twenty-two.

Glier has performed with James Taylor and other groups, and his music has been featured on the Bravo reality series *Don't Be Tardy to the Wedding*, specifically the song "Beauty in the Breakdown" from his latest Grammy-nominated album, *The Next Right Thing*.

He will be performing at Western New England University on Thursday, October 18 at 12:30 pm in the D'Amour Library, Room 319. Any music-lover will enjoy Glier's gift for singing and songwriting, as well as the broad spectrum of styles he has to offer.

College Republicans WNE

Interested in starting a campus-wide discussion? Want to sharpen your political skills and create a more conservative campus? Join the College Republicans every Tuesday at 5 pm in the Mass Mutual room in the Library and start a conversation!

Check us out on Facebook at WNE College Republicans and on Twitter at @WNE_republicans.

Mega Maze

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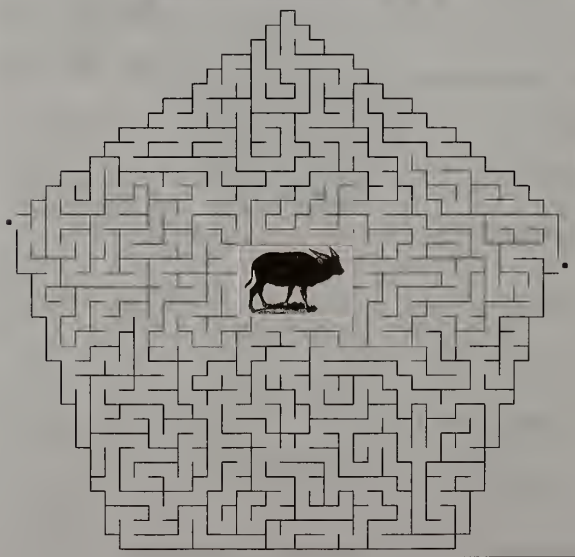

GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		32
×		−		×	
	÷		+		9
+		×		−	
	−		×		12
25		10		25	

2 3 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: D equals H

BVHO XRJXWPJVJC N UNP RB

CPNGW UIVXW AGVHHVJC RJ

AROWRJW'A ADVPZ:

"ZDW XRHHNP GIPGHW."

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Sports

Upcoming Events:

(Home games are in bold)

Friday Oct. 12
Women's Volleyball vs Rivier College 7 p.m.

Saturday Oct. 13
Women's Cross Country WNE Golden Bears Invitational 10:30 a.m.
Men's Soccer vs Endicott 11:00 a.m.
Women's Volleyball at Massachusetts Institute of Technology 11 a.m.
Men's Cross Country WNE Golden Bears Invitational 11:15 a.m.
Football vs MIT 1:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs Endicott College 1:30 p.m.
Women's Volleyball vs Bridgewater College 2 p.m.
Field Hockey vs Univ. of New England 6:00 p.m.
Men's Golf at Westfield State Invitational TBA
Women's Tennis at St. Joseph's (Conn.) Noon

Sunday Oct. 14
Men's Soccer at Oneonta State 2 p.m.

Tuesday Oct. 16
Women's Volleyball at Curry 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Oct. 17
Women's Soccer at Roger Williams University 4 p.m.
Men's Soccer at Roger Williams 7:00 p.m.
Field Hockey at Salve Regina 7 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs Commonwealth Coast Semifinals TBA

Saturday Oct. 20
Women's Volleyball at Wesleyan 11:00 a.m.
Men's Soccer vs Curry 11:00 a.m.
Field Hockey vs Nichols 1:00 p.m.
Football at Plymouth State 1:00 p.m.
Women's Swimming at University of St. Joseph (CT) 1:00 p.m.
Women's Volleyball vs WPI 1:00 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs Curry College 1:30 p.m.
Men's Golf at Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships
Women's Tennis vs Commonwealth Coast Finals TBA

Congratulations!

Linda Mustafa of the Western New England University women's tennis team has been named to the All-Commonwealth Coast Conference Second Team as well as earning the 2012 CCC Senior Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, it was announced by Commissioner Gregg M. Kaye on Tuesday.

Western New England University
Home of the Golden Bears!

Good luck to all fall athletic teams!

Interested in sports?

Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears? Have a knack for journalism or writing in general? The Westerner would love to have you! We are looking for any students who have an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write one WNE sports related articles per issue.

If you are interested please contact us at westerner@wneclubs.org or on Twitter @wne_westerner or via our facebook page!

Join us at one of our meetings held Thursdays at 7:30pm in Rivers 105.

Mega Maze

Solution

2	+	6	×	4	32
×		−		×	
8	÷	4	+	7	9
+		×		−	
9	−	5	×	3	12
25		10		25	

CryptoQuip

answer

Film concerning a jar of grape juice spilling on someone's shirt: "The Collar Purple."

FALL ATHLETICS RECORDS*

Football:
Wins: 3
Losses: 3
Conference Play:1-2

Men's Soccer:
Wins: 5
Losses: 6
Ties: 2
Conference Play:2-2-1

Women's Tennis
Wins: 4
Losses: 7
Conference Play: 3-5

Women's Soccer:
Wins: 6
Losses: 7
Ties: 1
Conference Play: 1-4-0

Men's Cross Country:
Placings: 30/40 on 10/6

Men's Golf:
Placings: 16/25, 1/6, 5/18

Women's Cross Country:
Placings: 30/43 on 10/6

Women's Field Hockey:
Wins: 4
Losses: 9
conference play:0-5

Women's Volleyball
Wins:15
Losses: 3
Conference Play: 3-1

*As of 10/9/12

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The Westerner

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Angry letters?

Please e-mail:
westerner@wneclubs.org

WNE senior creates political website

By: Hannah Berling

WNE senior Martin Payne recently took his interest in politics to a new level by creating a partisan website, www.thatsafairpoint.com.

Payne describes That's A Fair Point as a venue where he and his contributors are able to offer people a glimpse into all sides of political issues, as the website holds a partisan standpoint.

A senior accounting major, Payne started the website over the summer with the help of his aunt. The project began as a blog and has now developed into a full website. When his aunt was unable to carry on with the project fulltime, Payne enlisted the help of a former WNE student who currently studies in Florida to act as another contributor to the site.

The headline of Payne's new website
Image: http://thatsafairpoint.com/

From here, Payne hopes to see the site grow more.

"We are about to add two new contributors, the student body president of Florida Atlantic, and another contributor from New York City who works at MSNBC."

Using Google Analytics, Payne and his contributors were able to determine that towards the beginning of October, the website had roughly 6,000 hits to date and that they had about 750

Continued on page 3

Students participate in Alternative Fall Break program

By: Kaylene Hersey

While most students went home during Fall Recess, a select few chose to stay on campus to make a difference in the community.

This difference was made through the Alternative Fall Break program, a run-off of the Alternative Spring Break. This year's program was run by Koni Denham and it took place in Springfield for the duration of fall recess.

On the first day of the program, the students were given a tour of Springfield, to show many of the safer sides of the city and to disband the perception that Springfield is a dangerous city.

After the tour, the students visited the Children's Study Home where boys from ages 6-12 live, who for various reasons could not live with their own families. The students spent all of Saturday and Sunday with these boys, playing games and doing other various activities.

Volunteers gather for a group picture during the weekend's programs
Image: Michael Eriquezzo

"I loved seeing how appreciative these people were. They were so active and willing to absorb any advice you shared. We cleaned the Children's Study Home's backyard so that they could have a nice welcoming environment," said Sophomore Enrique Elizondo.

Monday consisted of visiting Sharp (Study Home Adolescence Residential Program). It is similar to the other Study Home but for older boys ages 13-18. WNE students' goal was to give them a break from their daily lives and hang out with them. They played basketball and football with the boys. Then, on the last day, the students helped paint rooms of a house being built next to the Sharp house. This building will eventually house more boys for Sharp.

For some of the students, this was their first Alternative Break, but others are returners. This allows each student to have their own learning experience different from those around them.

"I learned everyone has a different story, and no two people are alike. Not everyone is as fortunate as I am, or other students at this school are, and you really

Continued on page 3

NEWS

Matt Glowacki speaks on diversity issues

By: Hannah Berling

Students listen to speaker discuss diversity in popular culture
Image: Jenny Woo

Diversity speaker Matt Glowacki spoke to a group of WNE students on Thursday, October 11 to shine a new light on the topic of diversity.

The Campus Activities Board Diversity and Alternative Entertainment Committee sponsored Glowacki, who was born without legs, and is the most booked diversity speaker in America. He uses his own experiences along with clips from popular shows Family Guy and South Park to get his audience to look at diversity in a new way.

"Diversity is learning from difference and putting it in context of your own life and learning about yourself from it," Glowacki stated in his presentation.

Glowacki reflected on his own experiences in life to discuss the topic of disabilities and how people tend to treat individuals with disabilities.

This period of the discussion included Glowacki discussing how people will address him or other people with disabilities as, "you people", or they will ask him what they should call him. Glowacki said he responds to those people by saying, "call me Matt", because that is who he is.

"My disability appears in your mind more than it does in mine," Glowacki said.

He told a light-hearted story about his wife trying to kick him under the table at a restaurant because she forgot he didn't have legs, because she sees him as her husband Matt, not Matt the disabled person.

From there Glowacki used segments from television shows to aid in his lesson, stating that people spend 7-10 hours watching TV a day, and there is a lot we can learn from it.

"There's a ton of satire and parody that people don't get," Glowacki said of the lessons that can be learned from shows we may write off as nonsense.

Using two television clips, one from Family Guy and one from South Park, Glowacki was able to touch upon the issues of image and racism.

In the clip from Family Guy, Peter Griffon wanted to look more "perfect" for his family, but ultimately in the end, decided that it was better to look like himself.

Glowacki used this clip along with images of runway models, statistics, and the Dove Soap campaign to teach the audience that your outward appearance is not the most important part of who you are.

"The most attractive part of any person is their self-confidence," Glowacki told the crowd.

A second clip was shown from South Park, in which the characters dealt with issues of race. Glowacki then had the audience think about words that we associate with being racist and discussed where we get these definitions.

This portion of the presentation focused on how we, as members of society, should speak up when we hear people using terms that we deem to be inappropriate, or treating people in a way that is unfitting.

"A word is just a word until someone says it is a bad word," Glowacki explained. "Language is the agreement of the meaning of words."

Overall, the program allowed those in attendance to see diversity in a new way, and possibly open their eyes to a new way of watching TV.

Congratulations to the 2012 Skookum Award recipients

The recipiemts of the 2012 Skookum Awards standing with President Caprio
Image: wne.edu

The word Skookum in the Chinook language means excellence. The awards are presented annually to students who have demonstratcd excellence in academics, cocurricular activities, athletics, volunteer work, and community service.

The 2012 Skookum Awards were presented to: Michael Konarski, Courtney Ross, Brandon Case, Carla Lynch, Patrick Fraser, Kristine Perrone, Dominic Seguro, Barbara Meaden, Gregory Lewis, Michael Salva, Renise Washington, and Andrew Roberts

The following received the Royal Skookum Award: Elena Radzikowski and Christine Galinski

The Grand Skookum Award was given to: Katelyn Mello

Correction

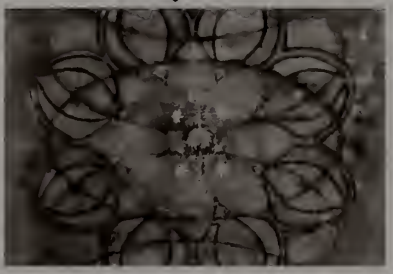
In the last edition of the Westerner, the article concerning the Golden Voice competition contained errors. Leighann Camarero is not this year's host, and Chris Morgan was not last year's; she is and he was in charge of the event. Also, the winners are decided by the judges, and students vote for the People's Choice winners. WNEK also has a large role in putting on the event.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

NEWS

WNE hosts Gallery talk

By: Andrea Melone



Ligorner's center piece titled "Beyond the Veil"
Image: wne.edu

Western New England introduced another artist, Sharon Ligorner, an abstract artist from Easthampton, MA on October 14 in the Art Gallery, and she discussed her work at the accompanying Gallery Talk on October 18.

Her collection of work, titled "Circles and Light", features an array of colorful pieces, some collages, and others made from a medium called encaustic, which is colored beeswax. The process involved in making such artwork comprises of melting the beeswax and painting with it, blowing on it with special heat guns, and layering the wax, creating a sort of transparent effect.

Ligorner has been working in encaustic since 2005; previously her primary interest was oil painting, frequently done on glass. Now, her focus is a combination of interests, including nature, patterns from the Eastern part of the world, and repeating shapes, particularly circles.

"I like things that keep appearing, the macro and the micro," Ligorner remarked, regarding the common themes in her work, such as the circles and certain circular patterns that reflect nature. "They just keep you going."

During her talk, she spoke of her work process. She explained how often she doesn't work from a plan in mind, but lets her creativity take control. "When I'm in my head too much I make a mess," she remarked. Often, she goes over what she's done completely, changing everything over and over again to achieve a desired result. "You won't get to that other point without taking risks," she noted, referring to the difficulty in moving past unsatisfying work. Luckily, beeswax is a medium that is relatively easy to fix, simply by adding more wax.

The WNE Art Gallery's curator and one of the school's art professors, Patricia Jenks, spoke to the differences between Ligorner's work and a previous encaustic artist WNE has featured. "It's interesting to see the same medium used to look so different," she remarked.

"Sometimes if you look twice, you see things you didn't notice the first time," stated Kara Moriarity, a student who attended the gallery talk.

The Western New England Art Gallery has been more successful in the past couple of years, according to Jenks. She suggested that offering extra credit to students in art classes to attend the opening receptions and talks has increased attendance. "It's a good learning experience," she stated. "It's fulfilling its mission."

Freak Week ongoing events

By: Sarah Wiles

This year's annual Freak Week will be taking place October 26 through November 2. Campus Activities Board has many events planned all week.

The week starts out on Friday, October 26 with an event by the Small Concerts committee called Musician Madness in The Rock from 9:00-11:00 P.M. This event is similar to the Battle of the Bands event put on in years past, except that it now allows for individual musicians to compete without the title of "band."

Melani Butcher, Small Concerts Committee Chairperson, is thrilled for this event to be included in Freak Week. "I'm really excited to incorporate the Halloween theme into Musician Madness with various decorations," she stated. "My committee is very excited for it, too. So far this is the first big event for all the new members, so there is a lot for them to do, but they're right on board with everything."

Saturday evening, the Travel Committee is bringing WNE students to the Trail of Terror in Wallingford, CT.

Kelly Robbins, a junior biology major, stated, "Well, I'm really excited, but I'm also really scared at the same time. I've heard that it's one of the scariest haunted trails around, so that kind of makes me nervous, but since I'm a fan of horror, it also makes me really excited. I can't wait!"

Freak Week ensues on Monday, October 29, from 11:00-3:00 in the Campus Center mall area with pumpkin painting. On Tuesday, there is a Halloween costume fashion contest, also in the mall area from 11:00-3:00. On Wednesday, Halloween, there is a murder mystery dinner from 5:00-7:30 in Rivers. On Thursday, November 1, students can get their futures read at the psychic fair in the mall area from 11:00-3:00, and on Friday, students can make wax hands and put their mug shots on coffee mugs from 11:00-3:00 in the mall area. Also on thursday, Dustin Pari, formerly of the television show *Ghost Hunters International* will give a lecture at 8:30 in Sleith 101.

Jenny Woo discusses planning the events by stating, "Right now it's going really well. My committee is very enthusiastic, and we can't wait for the week to start."

Student website cont. from first page.

unique visitors at that time.

Payne says that promotion of the website has been mostly word of mouth. They have used Facebook posts and a Facebook group. Recently Payne was interviewed on local radio stations WRSI and WHNP, and is hoping that those radio spots will help get word of his website out to the public.

"We've talked about maybe trying to get revenue from advertisements. I just want to expand it as much as I can," Payne stated.

Still being a student is something that Payne says has been an obstacle to getting people to see the site as a serious and viable source, but he believes that with the new contributors and the overall composition of the site, they will be able to overcome this.

"Everyone loves their own partisan websites because it kind of reinforces their own views, so it has definitely been difficult to be taken serious, to see that this is a viable option. It is something we are trying to overcome."

The website is broken up into five parts: "Counter Point", which features the current main focus topic that will be debated amongst the contributors; "Pressure Points", which features current event tidbits; "Pin Points", that is home to general topics of discussion; "Talking Points"; and "Power Points" that feature interviews with politians.

With campaign and voting season in full swing, Payne also discussed how upcoming sections will include current events in political campaigns.

"We are about to start doing something called 'ballot points' where we make our own predictions on the different elections, including the senate."

Payne says that working on the site along with keeping up with his school work has been a challenge, but one that he feels is worth it in the end.

"It has definitely been difficult and time consuming, staying up to get everything done, but it is fun and rewarding. I definitely feel more informed and am a more educated person who can hold their own in discussions now."

Fall Break cont. from first page.

have to appreciate what you have," said Junior Amanda Casella, a returner to Alternative Break. This was her second Alternative Break.

The program was not just a learning experience for the students but a great social interaction with other students on campus.

"I liked making new friends with the volunteers because I knew maybe half of them before break. I also liked getting to know the children better and seeing them have a good day with us," said Casella.

The idea of the Alternative Fall Break comes from the Alternative Spring Break, which is held each year during Spring Recess. During the week off, students travel to different areas around the country. Last year, the program went to Florida, New Hampshire, and Virginia. It is a great chance for LBC credit (Learning Beyond the Classroom), service hours for honors societies, or to just become more involved on campus.

"It counted as one of my LBC credits but it did not feel like the stereotype of community service. It was an eye-opening experience. I loved every moment of it," said Elizondo. It was his first time being a part of an Alternative Break.

"I would definitely do it again. It was a fun, non-stressful way to spend a long weekend. It was also really peaceful on campus because almost everyone went home," Casella said.

ENTERTAINMENT

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Mission IMPROVable entertains students, family, and friends

By: Steph Elizondo

A great crowd came together Saturday, October 13 during Western New England University's Family and Friends Weekend for the night's side-splitting comedic performance by the men of the Mission IMPROVable team! Performers David Sill, Adam Higgins, Matt Garard, and Byron Kennerly, better known as Agents Raptor, Apocalypse, Sugar Bear, and Battlestar, put on a hilarious show that kept all the attending families entertained through the night.

Their use of witty remarks, audience involvement, and emphatic actions during each of their "missions" never failed to be captivating for a second. From the get-go, the gentlemen tried to get the audience to participate by asking them to shout out items, places, and more for them to incorporate in the stories behind their enactments. They also pulled a few people up on stage to help them out with their games, such as by inserting words into the story or putting "clamps" on the performers. From strange scenes with slippery and spicy cops, to trying to guess what *Avatar* was through pantomimes and gibberish, they were very hands-on entertainers which made it a show worth seeing and that, most likely, everyone would want to see again.

Freshman student Taylor Dial commented on the enticing routine saying, "I thought they had really creative ideas as far as the games that they played. It was definitely different from other improv shows that I've seen in the past." Not only did I agree with her statement, but this also seemed to be the general consensus around campus. This show was talked about as jokes were reiterated throughout the weekend amongst both students and visiting friends and family. It was obvious from the response by the viewers that this was one of the best shows brought to campus thus far; Campus Activities Board certainly deserves thanks for that.

The Mission IMPROVable event was one of the most interesting, engaging, and funny things I have ever seen, and I was definitely glad that I did not miss it. Everyone who did not attend should be sure to check out Mission IMPROVable's YouTube videos or Facebook page, because they are definitely an act that is worth watching.

Consider visiting these Halloween attractions in the Northeast

By: Chantel Branco

Nightmare New England's freaks and monsters scare guests even before they get inside
Image: Chantel Branco

As October 31 steadfastly approaches, and you've just about exhausted all your creatively terrifying methods of scaring your roommates and friends, think about going off campus for some Halloween-themed fun. The Northeast is filled with haunted farms, scream parks, and walking trails that horror enthusiasts can visit to experience their worst nightmares come true. Two such attractions include the Headless Horseman Haunted Houses in New York, and the Nightmare New England scream park in New Hampshire, both well worth the drive.

Headless Horseman Hayrides and Haunted Houses is a Halloween attraction located in Ulster Park, New York, which is part of the Historic Haunted Hudson Valley. The attraction includes a one-mile hayride, a labyrinth style corn maze, six professionally created haunted houses, four food concessions, and several Halloween themed gift shops.

This season's theme at the Headless Horseman is "The Cult of the Horseman" featuring The Lunar Motel, Glutton's Slaughter House, The Root Cellar, Dark Harvest Corn Maze, Nightshade Greenhouse, The Feeding Dahlia Blood's Manor, and the newly added Dr. Dark's Black Spider Sideshow.

Also part of the Headless Horseman experience, is the additional nightly entertainment that includes Illusionist Ryan Dutcher and his team, whose unique mix of magic, special effects, and theatrics are designed to thrill and amaze audience members right out of their fear. For more information about the Headless Horseman haunted attraction, ticket prices, and directions visit the website at www.headlesshorseman.com.

Spooky World's Nightmare New England haunted attraction is located in Litchfield, New Hampshire, two hours north of campus. Situated along the banks and forests of the Merrimack River, this haunted attraction offers something for everyone with six haunted houses, a monster midway, Zombie paintball, Go-Kart racing, Mini-Golf, concessions, tarot card readings, music performances, a fire-pit, and a restaurant with two bars, all on-site.

The six haunted house attractions include Ravens Claw Resurrection, Brigham Manor, The Colony, Torment, House of Eternal Darkness, and Freak Show in 3D. Two of Nightmare New England's haunts are set within the natural landscape of the New Hampshire woods, while the other four allow for guests to find terror within the walls of the buildings.

In Raven's Claw, guests literally walk through the woods, under the iron archway and into the cemetery, surrounded by crypts, tombstones, mausoleums, freshly dug graves, and meet the corpses and zombies that lurk in the shadows and fog. Meanwhile, inside the circus tent, guests who enter the 3D Freak Show will experience the mind-bending labyrinth featuring a mutant army of freaks, evil clowns, and starving zombies.

These attractions are not for the faint of heart, and guests who travel to Spooky World will begin their Nightmare at the "Monster Midway", where they will be greeted by dozens of freakish characters that freely roam the grounds. For more information, ticket prices, and directions visit the website at www.nne.com.

To find more Halloween attractions, visit www.hauntworld.com, and as an alternative for those of you who do not enjoy such horrifyingly exciting excursions, stay indoors and get scared within the comfort or your residence hall room with some popcorn and a classic Halloween flick.

ENTERTAINMENT

T.V. Talk: Bringing the scary back

By: Hannah Berling

With Halloween approaching, it seems to be the appropriate time to discuss the dark side of television. While many people tend to think the horror genre belongs to the movies, it is rapidly expanding in the realm of TV as well.

Fox is home to *Fringe*, a show based on an FBI team that investigates crimes that seem to have a supernatural element. The show also deals with parallel universes, allowing it to act as what is described by some as a *Twilight Zone/X-Files* mash-up. The show falls in to the realm of horror or thriller because of the paranormal elements that work their way into the show and the storylines that can be frightening, creepy, and have the ability to keep the viewer on the edge of his or her seat.

Fox's sister station, FX, holds what is considered by some to be the scariest show on TV right now. On October 17, the doors to the asylum were opened on the premiere of season two of *American Horror Story*. Acting as a mini-series, *American Horror Story* is able to change from one creepy scenario to another between seasons. Last season, we got a glimpse into a haunted house, and this season creators, Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk (Nip/Tuck, Glee), are bringing us to Briarcliff Sanatorium. The plot of the show creeps viewers out by revealing evil acts being done in the establishment in the 1960's along with flashes to current time where a honeymooning couple is faced with the evil still lurking in the abandoned asylum (Adam Levine didn't need that arm right?). The show will both creep out viewers (seriously, there are a lot of scenes with needles) and reduce them to screams and hand-flying-up-to-cover-eyes (the main horror character's name is Bloody Face, people). This season is sure to provide just about everything needed for your classic horror tale with ghosts, aliens, evil doctors, naughty nuns, and fear inducing evil entities.

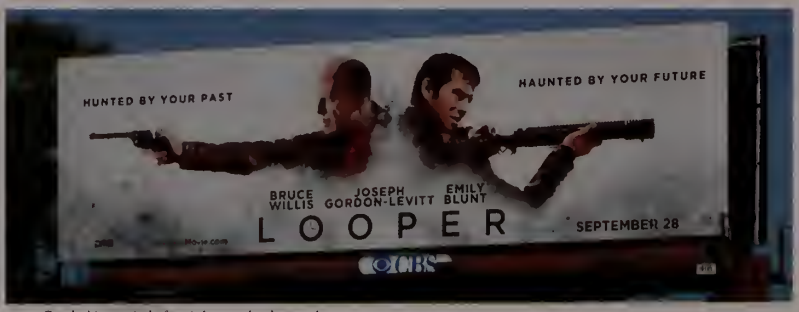
Not into being committed to the asylum? Head on over to AMC and meet up with another creepy craze on television. Zombies are the main focus of the extremely popular show, *The Walking Dead*. Based on the comic book series of the same name, this show gives viewers a glimpse into how life would be if we were faced with a zombie apocalypse. The group of people on the show must learn to survive in a land overrun by zombies or "walkers" that have one thing on their mind: kill the humans. The main horror aspect of the show is the appearance of the zombies. Ken Tucker of Entertainment Weekly described the creatures in this way, "appearances by deceased but moving, flesh-rotting, flesh-eating cameo monsters." So, if you like your favorite TV characters to he of the non-flesh-rotting variety, I suggest you look away.

If these options seem too dramatized and fake for you, you have your choice of a large variety of "reality" programming based on the paranormal as well. Travel Channel is home to *Ghost Adventures*, a show that follows three ghost hunters as they travel to the world's most haunted places seeking out the paranormal. Along the same lines, you have the more laid back *Ghost Hunters* on SyFy, who hold the same premise except they are more likely to debug signs of the paranormal. SyFy is also home to *Paranormal Witness* (which aired its season finale on October 24, but will still be around plenty in reruns), which focuses on recreations of real people's encounters with ghosts, demons, aliens, and anything in between. If you want to feel like you can watch scary shows, but aren't sure you can handle any of the above mentioned, I suggest you pop on over to Destination America where you can find reruns of Discovery's old show *A Haunting*. This show uses B rate actors to recreate people's real life ghost stories, and if nothing else, it is a good laugh.

No need to go spend the big bucks to get scared in the theatre this year. Plenty of horror, chills, screams, and unexplained activity can be found at home on your TV.

Movie Review: *Looper*

By: Nick Palmer



Catch this movie before it leaves the theaters!
Image: dailybillboard.blogspot.com

As bold and original as it is thrilling, Rian Johnson makes a visually stunning contribution to Sci-Fi with his new time travel thriller *Looper*. Brilliantly painted against a unique noir dystopian America comparable to the likes of Scott and Kubrick, Johnson spares the audience from the confounding headaches of science in movies by expediting the nerd fodder that is time travel tech and sticking to character development and empathy.

Reuniting with Johnson for their second neo-noir partnership since *Brick* in 2005 (another highly recommended RJ flick), Joseph Gordon-Levitt, wearing Bruce Willis-esque prosthetics and mannerisms with chilling accuracy, plays a Looper, or hitman who caters to the inclinations of future mobsters who zap their loose ends to the past. A departure from playing the happy-go-lucky twentysomethings he is known for, Gordon-Levitt waxes his diverse range, carrying himself onscreen with a rugged anti-hero swagger like a Humphrey Bogart gumshoe stuck in Bladerunner. His performance is matched in harmonious bad-assery by Bruce Willis himself, his older counterpart, tapping deeper beneath the iconic stone-faced mug that he wears so exceptionally well to reveal a tormented and haunted character.

The reasoning behind all the ins and outs of time travel that Johnson provides may not reward prolonged inspection, but this fresh new Sci-Fi shoot 'em up (with some seriously big guns, too) is smart enough to press onward with its plot, leaving us with neither the time nor the desire to linger over the logic. Acknowledging that people go to movies to see movies and not quantum physics lectures, Johnson masterfully composes and blends high science into visual storytelling with fast-paced action, elegant cinematic style, steady-state suspense, marvelous acting and haunting explorations of youth, age and personal destiny, all the while keeping us deeply fascinated with the scientific gloss on the surface. Johnson focuses the energy away from the bending of minds and showing off the amount of Strings Theory he can recite, and onto the emotional and personal ripples that time travel would create.

With other noteworthy performances by Emily Blunt, Paul Dano, and Jeff Daniels, as well as newcomer Pierce Gagnon, who pulls off an astonishingly creepy performance as a child with a rather disturbing gift, *Looper* is a starkly original ride through time that is not afraid to slow down now and again to explore themes of regret and redemption, solitude and sacrifice, love and loss. A much needed character study-based addition to the archives of science fiction, *Looper* is being called one of the best Sci-Fi contributions in years and is most definitely worth seeing, and perhaps, traveling back to see again.

ENTERTAINMENT

Book Review: *Rant* by Chuck Palahniuk

By: Andrea Melone

Rant. The word automatically brings up thoughts of frantic, fanatical raving, an explosion of emotion, confusion, frustration. You mind is a clutter of chaotic ideas, swirling in circles, making messy nonsense. Or at least, that's what the word will bring to mind having read *Rant*.

You may know Chuck Palahniuk, author of the book then made into a thrilling film, *Fight Club* (although, if you know that title, you know I'm breaking the first rule by merely mentioning it), as well as his other novels *Choke*, *Invisible Monsters*, and *Lullaby*, among others. Anyone who knows Palahniuk can attest to his ability to bend and mold your mind, and make you think again.

Rant: An Oral Biography of Buster Casey, is no different; *Rant* will, for lack of a better or more suitable expression, blow your mind. I promise. You know how you sat stunned and tried to wrap your head around *Inception*? It's like

Pick up this book for some downtime
Image: chuckpalahniuk.net/books/rant

that, and also not at all like that.

It's a dark story about a character named Buster "Rant" Casey, a troublemaker, a rebel, and an enigma. However, a few aspects to the story make it unique: first, before you've started, you already know Rant is dead; second, you never actually read the story from Rant's perspective; third, the book is a collection of testimonials and interviews in which Rant's friends, family, enemies, and other assorted characters describe Rant as they knew him, or provide other important information. The different stories slowly pile together to depict the bizarre character, and increase curiosity and confusion the more they tell.

Throughout the book, the different characters reveal seemingly useless pieces of Rant's life, from his childhood acts of mischief, to his more disturbing and notable incidents later in life, including his spectacular but suicidal stunt in which he drives off of a cliff after a long game of what the characters call "Party Crashing", involving a real-life bumper-car, demolition derby game of destruction.

Although an obviously disturbed person, Rant Casey, as a topic of discussion in the book, is fascinating. His childhood riddled with questionable activities, his career of stunts and dangerous activities, as well as his described attitude, make him dark, disturbed, and original. Rant is a collection of abnormalities, including an addiction to forcing insects, arachnids, and animals to bite or sting him purely for the adrenaline rush and venom; an uncanny sense of smell and taste; a sick interest in scaring and disgusting the town in a Halloween haunted house; and an ideal imagination to profit hugely, completely altering his town's monetary values, as a child. He's both likable and unlikable at the same time.

Even the setting for the story is unusual: some of it takes place, and can only take place, at night, because half of the characters are limited to the nighttime for activity. The society in which they live is split between Daytimers and Nighttimers, with the population literally being segregated based on time, and are only permitted to be outside during their assigned or chosen time. Certain realistic attributes come with this separation, including hostility towards the other "timers".

As the novel reaches its conclusion, Palahniuk starts to really unravel reality in Rant's world, warping your mind, and your sense of truth. I know Rant felt like the perfect title, when all I wanted to do was talk to someone who'd read the book to rant about it, to try to grasp what I was reading.

What's especially exciting is that Palahniuk has suggested that Rant will be just the first story in a trilogy; this book could definitely be expanded, so this would be fantastic.

As an English major, I'm obviously a fan of reading, but even non-avid readers can enjoy having their minds blown; the language is generally simple, given that it's supposed to mimic dictation, and it's a very fast read. Plus, it's really a struggle, not just to put it down, but to leave it alone once you have set it aside.

Westerner Beer Review:
Berkshire Brewing Company

By: Chris Principato

For my first piece in the Westerner, I would like to let the reader know my taste preferences as well as share some tips for the amateur beer enthusiast. While commercials are seen everywhere for various alcoholic beverages, I promise you that nothing seen on TV or bar posters will give you as much of an experience as microbrews. With laws loosening around the art of small scale brewing and selling, now is the time to experience the local fare. You can expect my future reviews to be mostly microbrews with medium to full bodies and a variety of flavors.

As general information for the amateur beer enthusiast, I would like to introduce you to the two most potent flavors found in beer, hops and malt. Hops are flower buds added to beer for a bitter flavor and distinctive aroma. Hops are added early in the brewing process for a bitter flavor and later in the process for aroma. Some brewers add hops at the end of the process just for aroma while limiting the dispersion of bitters into the beverage. Malts are germinated grains, usually barley, that are added to beer for its sweet properties. Malt provides the yeast used in brewing a source of energy as well as adds a sweet overtone to many beers.

For my first beer review, I have chosen to feature the local microbrewery Berkshire Brewing Company's (BBC) Traditional Pale Ale. This beer is by far one of Massachusetts's most flavorful medium-bodied ales. When approaching this ale, the use of hops in the later stages of brewing is obvious by its distinctive and inviting aroma. The use of malt is prevalent as well, while not creating an overly sweet flavor. The malt and hops are married in perfect quantities to create a relaxing and smooth finish to this local brew. The medium body of BBC's Traditional Pale Ale pairs well with heavier dishes such as beef stew or spicy ethnic foods. For its palate pleasing aroma and finish, I give BBC's Traditional Pale Ale four out of five beers.

BBC is located in South Deerfield Massachusetts and currently sells to five states. If you have time I highly recommend taking the forty-five minute drive from WNE to the brewery for their Saturday tours at 1:00 PM. A variety of BBC's brews are available across the street at Paddy's Irish Pub as well as Winn Liquors and Kappy's Boston Road. Please Drink responsibly and take time to enjoy the local fare.

Note: All students consuming alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

BBC Rating

4/5 Beers

1. What was the name of Rockwell's debut album?
2. Name the 1962 parody by Bobby "Boris" Pickett & The Crypt-Kickers.
3. "Over at the Frankenstein Place" and "Sword of Damocles" came from which cult film?
4. Which artist released "Whistlin' Past the Graveyard" on his "Somethin' Funny Goin' On" album? Hint: This artist was known for using a skull on a stick and rubber snakes as stage props.
5. Which well-known film included "The Magic of Halloween"?
6. Name the song this lyric was from: "If there's somethin' strange, in your neighborhood, Who ya gonna call?"

Flash Back Pop, Rock, and Soul Trivia Answers on page 10

FEATURES

How to speak Australian

By: Alexis Bshara

Europe. Australia. South America. Challenge yourself. Push yourself. Broaden your horizons, even if it means traveling 20 hours across the world. Studying abroad in Australia for a semester was a life changing experience. It was the most challenging and rewarding experience of my college career. Griffith University of the Gold Coast was my home for five months. Before I arrived in Australia, I had no idea what to expect. What I experienced was a journey of a lifetime. I didn't just learn about a different culture in the five months I was abroad, I found myself. I ventured the most spectacular areas in Australia, including Sydney, Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef, Byron Bay, and Brisbane, but I didn't stop there. I took advantage of my time in Australia to the point where I even decided to spend ten days in Thailand; talk about a culture shock! Every destination I traveled to not only taught me about the Australian culture, but also helped me grow into a more independent person.

Sydney, Australia was the first stop on my journey. February 15, I stepped off a plane and walked into paradise. This cosmopolitan, vibrant, and multicultural city was full of amazement. From climbing to the top of the Sydney bridge, to sitting on the steps of the Sydney Opera House and cruising around the Sydney Harbor, I witnessed a whole new world. The city gave me a different feeling than any other I have been to. It wasn't a city full of people on a specific time schedule, it was a city filled with leisure. I started my morning off walking through the bustling city streets and ended my day across town relaxing on the beaches of Bondi Beach, the most beautiful shoreline I have ever encountered. I ended my days on the 27th floor of the Meriton Serviced Apartments, overlooking the city of Sydney Australia. My Sydney orientation flew by and it was off to my future home, the Gold Coast.

Surfing, lounging on the beach, classy people, and laid back are just a few words that describe the Gold Coast of Australia. I lived in a very upscale area called Broadbeach and attended Griffith University. It didn't take long for me to call Broadbeach home, or "Broady" as Australians referred to it. I lived with three girls who soon became my family. My everyday life living in the Gold Coast became indescribable, and I find it hard to believe that I was given such an amazing opportunity. Waking up every morning and being able to take a five minute walk to the beach was something I would only dream of before living in Australia. When I wasn't at the beach, my roommates knew they could always find me shopping in Surfers Paradise, where I fell in love with the Australian fashion style. Each shopping trip was never complete without the purchase of a "kebab" which in Australia was a wrap filled with your choice of chicken, beef, or falafel, and always topped off with cheese, lettuce, and sweet chili sauce. After my long days, I always found the time and energy to go out at night because I loved the Australian nightlife atmosphere. I looked forward to going to the variety of clubs and dancing to the various techno club mixes made by the Australian DJs. Every weekend, a new performer would visit the Gold Coast and my roommates and I always made sure we were front row. Whether it was Havana Brown at Beer Garden, Bombs Away at Platinum, Jabawakeez at East, or Ying Yang Twins at Vanity, there was never an excuse for us to not be there. Partying with the Australians was always a good time because of their friendly, laid back attitude that made it possible for us to make new friends everywhere we went. The Gold Coast was an amazing place filled with great opportunities and never left us without something to do. It is a place I could see myself living in the future or at least go back to visit to relive the life I once had.

Alexis and a friend in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia
Image: Alexis Bashara

The people I met throughout my journey in the Gold Coast were amazing, especially my Australian friends. Our first excursion was learning how to surf. Let me tell you, it is not easy! Another excursion, one of my favorites, was cheering on the Gold Coast Titans at a rugby match. Australia lives and dies for rugby! Every television, no matter where you were, would have a rugby game on, a lot like football in the United States. Those were only two of the countless adventures I endeavored in the Gold Coast. The Q1 building of Surfers Paradise was another popular attraction in Australia. The sight from the top of the Q1 building was breathtaking, overlooking the Gold Coast and beyond. The Q1 building is the tallest building in Australia, with an elevator that takes you to the 78th floor in 14 seconds.

While I was living in the Gold Coast, I made time to travel to different locations around Australia. My first stop was to Cairns for my roommate's 21st birthday. In Cairns, we stayed at a hostel named Gilligans, where we roomed with an English girl, a girl from Germany, and a boy from Denmark. Being my first time staying in a hostel, I was a little uneasy at first rooming with complete strangers. Looking back at it, I would not have done it any other way, because rooming with people from different countries gave me an opportunity to experience worldwide cultures while still being in Australia. In Cairns, we got to explore the Great Barrier Reef, which lived up to its reputation of being one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World. Being able to snorkel and scuba dive over the reef is an experience I will always remember because of how beautiful and peaceful it was. We were able to swim with the fish and alongside turtles while they were living their life within the reef. The Great Barrier Reef and Cairns was one of the greatest times of my life and my favorite trip I took within Australia.

My next trip was to the beach town of Byron Bay, where my roommate and I rented a car and drove to together. This was one of the most laid back, relaxing towns I have ever been able to experience. The town was right along the beach, where people were always surfing and drawing art in the sand. The locals of Byron Bay were very artistic and decorated every aspect of the town with paintings; even the trashcans were decorated with their art. On my last day there, I took a trip to the Cape Byron Lighthouse. The lighthouse is one of Australia's most popular landmarks, which is situated on the most easterly point of the mainland. The view from the lighthouse stretched across Byron Bay's coastline and I was even able to see dolphins swimming together in the distance. Byron Bay allowed me to experience a different culture living within Australia and was a place that transformed my aspect on life.

Australia was a trip that I am so fortunate to have been able to make. I could go on to write a book about everything I encountered while abroad because I was able to enjoy and learn from every aspect of it. The different lifestyle that the Australians live gave me the opportunity to reevaluate my own lifestyle and create a new outlook for myself. I have become a more relaxed person and have learned that life is too short to worry about the little things. I have incorporated the Australian motto of "no worries" into my every day life and can truly say that traveling to Australia has made me an independent person.

FEATURES

Good Vibrations: Jon McLaughlin

By: Cara Federici

Cara and friends with Jon after the show
Image: Cara Federici

"Every song is a stepping stone, kinda like the way it feels when you let the stars sing you home" croons seventeen year old Xenia (pronounced "Senya") throughout her song "Sing You Home" during her sweepingly raspy opening act for Jon McLaughlin Tuesday, October 16 at the Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton, MA.

With a rustic voice reminiscent of the roughly ravishing Serena Ryder combined with the bubbly Colbie Caillat, Xenia kicked off the evening with covers of Philip Phillip's hit single "Home" alongside some original tunes that kept the crowd intrigued and wanting more from this refreshing musician. As a former participant on the popular NBC show "The Voice", Xenia shared a bit with the audience about her life-changing experience singing on the show. Despite getting eliminated from her season of "The Voice", Xenia's team coach, Blake Shelton, helped her get where she is today.

Xenia's warm story revealed how she informed Shelton that Jon McLaughlin is her idol and the main reason why she is inspired to write and perform music. Knowing that McLaughlin was such an inspiration to Xenia, he surprised her on her last episode on "The Voice" by telling her that she was not only going to meet her idol, McLaughlin, but perform a duet with him on his song "Maybe It's Over" off of his record *Forever If Ever.*

The expression on Xenia's face while she was telling us the story of her dreams coming true was adorable. It was obvious that she was incredibly grateful and highly thankful of Shelton for helping her get the opportunity to work with her idol. I'd say that Xenia is an awesome example of how one's dreams truly can be achieved through hard work and dedication. It was with Shelton's help and Xenia's determination that got her noticed by McLaughlin and won her the opening slot on his fall tour.

It was a pleasure to meet Xenia and hear her endearing success story, and revel in the fact that her dreams are merely starting to come true. With her raspy tone and fantastic talent, it is expected that she will go far with her musical career.

Having a fantastic opening act is a vital part of any musician's tour because the opening act has the dutiful responsibility to warm up the audience and prepare fans for an evening filled with killer music and memorable moments. Xenia did just that, and primed the crowd for the wonderful musical stylings of one of my favorite pianists, Jon McLaughlin.

I was fortunate enough to see McLaughlin perform live for the first time last fall when he headlined a tour with my favorite local band, Stephen Kellogg & the Sixers, and stopped at the Iron Horse. Ever since I heard McLaughlin's song "Industry" (which is also my favorite song by McLaughlin) I have been inspired to start playing the piano again. If you read my last article about musician Seth Glier, you can tell that pianos are my favorite instrument, if not by far my favorite sound overall.

You might be already slightly familiar with McLaughlin if you have seen the Disney movie *Enchanted,* where I was pleasantly surprised to see McLaughlin's small performance at a ball towards the end of the film when Amy Adams and Patrick Dempsey dance to McLaughlin's performance of his lovely song "So Close". If you listen to any of his tracks and are even remotely impressed by the intoxicating energy that emits from his music, you would certainly be blown away by a live performance.

A friend of mine joked sarcastically that it's a shame Jon isn't attractive, but his appearance would take away from his talent. I had to laugh. However, at the same time I responded that is the beauty of music: you can even listen to it with your eyes closed and still feel the incredible energy that is created throughout each key McLaughlin hits and word he writes.

I couldn't help but think that McLaughlin was a sort of multi-talented musical maniac when he whipped out a harmonica that he put around his neck to play while he simultaneously played the piano. It's rather difficult to put into words how radical McLaughlin's piano playing is; his performance left fans wondering how it's possible one human can look like he is dangerously flailing his hands around this musical instrument only to create some of the most beautifully revitalizing music I have ever heard.

I was particularly charmed again when McLaughlin began performing a cover of Elton John's song "Rocket Man". Now, I have only heard this song in its original form sung by Elton John or when it is brutally butchered during karaoke, so to see McLaughlin perform a cover of it was incredibly entertaining. McLaughlin was able to take the song and make it his own through his signature piano playing and soothing vocals. Interested readers can even view a recorded version of McLaughlin's "Rocket Man" performance on Billboard Magazine's YouTube channel in the Mashup Mondays section.

McLaughlin is one of the artists who constantly inspires me to get back into playing the piano every time I pick up his newest record and hear that delightful piano and wonderfully wise words. McLaughlin's music is one of the reasons I was inspired to take a piano class here at WNE last year.

His performances at the Iron Horse only make me want to find someone (I mean, preferably McLaughlin himself) to follow me around with a baby grand piano and play the piano live all day because the sounds that instrument creates are incredible. I suppose I should thank Steve Jobs because this is slightly possible through my classic iPod, even though live musical performances are impressive.

Gateway program honors Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By: Logan Buckley

In America, about 300,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. These women are greatly affected by this disease, although they are not the only ones. How about their families and friends? Are they not affected as well? It can be said they are not as impacted as the ones with the disease, but they are affected nonetheless. This is why the Gateway RAs are putting on a program called Paint The Streets Pink. This event is in honor of breast cancer awareness month, which is of course October. For every person that lives in Gateway, a pink ribbon will be painted on the sidewalk in his or her honor. This is to represent that even though some may not have the disease, many are affected in some way. As a staff the Gateway RAs felt that it was safe to say in some way, shape, or form that almost all residents in Gateway have had a family member or friend to have or has had Breast Cancer. These ribbons will represent those family members and friends, and all the gateway residents that have been directly or indirectly affected by Breast Cancer. Gateway RA staff members will be handing out flyers and pink ribbons throughout the week while they are on duty, so be sure to grab one, and look out for the painted pink ribbons on the sidewalks throughout Gateway Village.

FEATURES

Going green at WNE

By: Gennah Borg

Recycle whenever you can, and don't forget your water bottle when you leave your room
Image: Gennah Borg

Going green has become a major topic on and off college campuses. People always say they will try to conserve and recycle. However, few actually accomplis this task. Contrary to popular belief, there are in fact more ways to go green than driving a hybrid car on the street or investing in solar panels for your home. It is important to remember that going green does not have to break your budget! Especially for college students like you, going green can be made simple and done from your residence hall!

Since choosing to recycle their left over bottles and cans from their Bed Race bed, the residences of the Commonwealth residence hall have requested recycling bins for the building in a continuous effort to going green.

As a trial run, a blue recycling bin has been placed in the common room on the first floor of the residence hall. So far the trial run has been a success! Having a recycling bin within the building has encouraged many of the students to join in the effort of recycling their cans and bottles.

My roommate Emily Koplar and I live in Commonwealth and have designated one out of the two trash cans in our room to recycling bottles and cans. Additionally, many of the other rooms on our floor have also chosen to take part within the recycling effort.

"I enjoy being able to help the environment, especially being away from home at college. I find it to be a more rewarding experience," says Commonwealth resident Scott Sancomb.

In the weeks to come, the residents of the Commonwealth residence hall hope to see more blue recycle bins throughout the building. The Commonwealth Chargers are proud to be going green!

Think you are interested in going green on campus? Here are some additional tips that you can follow to begin your journey of going green here at Western New England University:

BYOB: Not bring your own beer; bring your own BOTTLE, as in WATER BOTTLE! Start to get into the habit of carrying your own reusable bottle of water or mug to avoid wasting plastic bottles or cups each day. If you do use plastic bottles, be sure to place them in a recycling bin and not the garbage.

Lights, Action, Conserve: As a college student, whether you live on campus or off, chances are you have some kind of floor or desk lamp that is used to help light up your space. Many of the lamps we utilize today use halogen light bulbs which generate hundreds of watts of electricity. The best type of light bulb to get is a compact fluorescent bulb, which is just as bright, and they last extra long and help conserve energy!

Baby, it's Getting Cold Outside: This season, instead of cranking up the heat as soon at the temperature drops below the comfort of 70 degrees, turn *down* that heat! Instead of blasting that heat, use blankets and sweatshirts to bundle up when that room of yours gets cold. Consider using the heating system sparingly and try to only use the heater when it is absolutely too cold outside not to use it. Remember to bundle up!

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

September 20, 2012 The manager of the Campus Bookstore notified University Police of a suspicious older male selling books back to the bookstore. The books are thought to be stolen. The suspect was recognized from an earlier incident. The suspect was identified and the case is under investigation.

September 25, 2012 University Police responded to a medical emergency involving a student having trouble breathing. The patient refused an ambulance and was transported to the hospital by a friend.

September 29, 2012 University Police assisted Springfield Police with an off campus party on Rosewell Drive. The underage gathering was dispersed. Springfield Police issued a city ordinance violation.

September 29, 2012 A man with no affiliation with the University was arrested and charged with larceny of a bicycle and trespassing. The arrest came after a resident student reported his bicycle stolen from the campus center. Investigating officers located the suspect and the stolen bike and after a brief interrogation the man admitted to stealing the bike.

September 29, 2012 At the end of the Homecoming Weekend football game an elderly male suffered a medical emergency when he lost consciousness after the game. University Police assisted ambulance personnel that were stationed at the game. He was taken to the hospital for further treatment.

Saturday 29, 2012 A large fight involving about 10 people in the Quad was reported. Officers arrived a short time later and observed several people leaving the area. The investigation concluded that two male students had been fighting before fleeing the area. The men were identified, both blamed the other for starting the fight, both were highly intoxicated, and were referred to the Dean of Students Office.

October 2, 2012 University Police responded to the Center for Science and Pharmacy Building for a student that had fainted. Witnesses told police the student had hit her head on the floor when she fainted. Health Services responded with a wheel chair and the patient was transported to Health Services for further medical assessment.

October 9, 2012 All units responded to Southwood Hall for a fire alarm. Upon arrival, Police reported people were evacuating the building, the alarm was sounding, and lights were flashing. The alarm was determined to be caused by smoke from cooking. The area was ventilated and the alarm reset. There was no fire and no injuries.

Reminder, please make sure that your E2 campus account is active. Also, make sure that you have checked the box to receive WNE Weather Alerts regarding cancelations and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSFSR.pdf

FEATURES

Creative Corner: An original piece written by a WNE student

The Westerner is incorporating an original story in segments. Look for part 4 in the next issue of the Westerner!

By: Robert L. Gilchrist

Jason: Part 3

The fire had almost completely consumed the ship within minutes of igniting. It had started in the boiler room of the cruiser *Poseidon* and had quickly spread through the ship's infrastructure to engulf the entirety of the boat. With the ship sailing the Anauros River on the city's south side, the police wouldn't be able to mobilize in time, and the city's heroes were preoccupied with a hostage standoff at the Tyche Bank. All seemed lost for the souls on the *Poseidon.*

But then Jason appeared to save them.

He had jumped the length of half the river to reach the sinking ship, and was now working to get those trapped in the lower levels free. He smashed through fallen pipes and debris as if it were cardboard, breaking through weakened walls to free the trapped crew members. Finally, there was only one left to save: an old woman trapped under a burning wooden plank.

"Leave me," she said. "Save the others. I'm only an old woman."

"Everyone's already safe," said Jason. "Besides, I can save everyone."

Just then, an explosion ripped through the hull of the ship, sending gallons upon gallons of filthy river water into the ship. Jason pulled the woman free and carried her on his back up to the deck of the ship. Finally, the ship gave way and Jason leapt out into the cool night with the old woman on his back.

Not having enough force behind his leap, he had to skip himself across the water to reach land, using the strength in his legs to propel himself across the water. Once there, he set down the old woman with the rest of the survivors.

"Thank you," she said. "Please, how can I thank you?"

Before Jason could respond, a crowd of reporters who had been observing the spectacle came rushing over flashing their cameras and demanding answers to their questions.

"Who are you?"

"Where did you come from?"

"How do the other heroes feel about your brutal methods?"

Without a single word, Jason leapt off into the night. He had to get away from those reporters. He wasn't out there to glad-hand those barracudas that were only interested in sensationalism and excitement. That was for all those clowns who paraded around in shining armor. He was out there for one specific purpose, and he had hit a stall.

He landed on the roof of a nearby building and walked around for a minute. He slowed his breathing and tried to refocus himself, but then he noticed something. He looked down and cursed under his breath. One of his shoes was gone. He must have lost it in the water as he carried that woman across the river.

Jason stood for a minute, pondering his sudden lack of footwear and how he was going to rectify this problem. Just then, a bloodcurdling scream cut through the night. Jason then jumped off into the night, still only wearing one shoe.

* * * *

The woman held onto her purse for dear life, trying to fight off the mugger with one hand as she did. He wasn't budging though, and suddenly whipped his hand around and connected with the woman's face. Crumbling to the ground, she tried to get back up. But the mugger had pulled a knife and was leaning in to finish her off…

Just then, the mysterious hooded figure leapt down from the roof of a nearby building and kicked the mugger in the back. A loud snap could be heard echoing across the alley. The mugger cried out in agony, and Jason grabbed him and slammed him into the brick wall. The mugger slumped to the ground, unconscious and bleeding.

"Well, you are as brutal as all the papers say you are, aren't you Jason?" said the woman. Jason turned to see she had pulled a gun from her purse and was now pointing it directly at him. "I mean, that was one of my best bodyguards, and you broke him like he was made of wicker."

"You do realize I could take that from you," he said to her. She just smiled.

"Faster than I could pull the trigger?" she questioned. Jason said nothing. "Do you know who I am?" she asked. Jason shook his head, trying to see how he could get the gun away from her. "Well then, I guess my father's people have done their jobs. My name, which you should get to know, is Medea." Jason recognized the name.

"Wait, you're Senator Aeetes' daughter?" Medea smiled at this title.

"The one and only. Now look here, Mr. Masked Jason character, I need your help."

"What makes you think I'll help someone who threatens me with a gun?" asked Jason.

"Because aside from being a damn good damsel in distress for you masked types, I'm also pretty good with computers. So I've been able to get access to things most people can only dream of getting to."

"What does any of this have to do with me?"

"Because by using all this knowledge, I figured out who you really are," she said. "I mean, you didn't really think people would think Jason is your real name, did you?"

"You're crazy, and delusional, and I'm leaving. Feel free to shoot me if you want, but you won't." He then turned and began to walk away.

"And why won't I?" Medea asked. She cocked the gun to show him she was serious.

"Because if you need my help, you won't risk injuring me. Or killing me." Jason then headed towards the end of the alley, realizing this was a waste of time for him.

"Fine, I just have one last question for you." Jason paused and turned his head to listen to what her feeble attempt would be to get him to help her.

"What did it feel like to hold your dead wife's body in your arms, Heracles?" she asked.

To Be Continued…

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	÷		+		11
+		+		−	
	+		+		10
÷		×		×	
	−		×		8
2		25		24	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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GO FIGURE Answers on page 11

Don't see the puzzles you want? Email us at westerner@wneclubs.org and tell us what puzzles you would like to see in the next issue!

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are Thursdays @ 7:30 pm in Rivers 105

The Westerner has a new e-mail! Please send all emails regarding articles, corrections, ads ect. to the new e-mail address at westerner@wneclubs.org

Flash Back Pop, Rock, and Soul Trivia Answers

1. "Somebody's Watching Me," in 1984. Included on the album were "Knife" and "Obscene Phone Caller."
2. "Monster Mash," in 1962. The song was a spoof of dances of the era, such as Mashed Potato.
3. "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," which opened in 1975. The film is still shown around the country as a midnight movie. Fans dress up and act out the parts.
4. Screamin' Jay Hawkins. His 1956 "I Put a Spell on You" was used in an episode of The Simpsons in 2003.
5. "E.T. the Extraterrestrial." The song was included in the 1996 and 2002 reissues. The 2002 version also took the guns out of the hands of policemen and replaced them with walkie-talkies.
6. "Ghostbusters," recorded by Ray Parker, Jr. in 1984.

OPINION & PUZZLES

Dog? Where? The existentialism of Scooby-Do

By: Nick Palmer

There was me. Sitting on a couch. My neighbor's couch, for what it's worth. Saturday morning. Hung over, but enjoying its perks. I suppose it's kinda like when Wile E. Coyote is caught holding a bowling ball cannon and it erupts into a big, flamboyant animated explosion. I mean, you're singed, you're holding up a sign that says "Ouch!", but you're fine. You brush it off. I'm having Lucky Charms (sans the wheat) with a big old "recovery size" bottle of Gatorade on the side. Scooby Doo has solved another mystery on TV. "And I would've gotten away with it, too! If it weren't for you meddling kids and that dog!"

And then he says it.

"Rog? Rhere?"

Dog? Where? The most existentially and metaphysically profound statement in all of animation.

Is Scooby Doo truly unaware of his own existence as a dog? Does he believe he is something else? He's capable of speech, he has a pretty diverse lexicon, he can SOLVE MYSTERIES, for Christsakes, so he has the capacity for abstract thought and logic. But when the mirror of self actualization is reflected on his naïve mug, he is reduced to a dog once again. It's an understandable affectation of his character: canines are not capable of self-recognition. You point a mirror on my Border Collie, she growls like a maniac. So I can get behind the notion of keeping a few valid dog qualities to add to his characterization. But why the confounding mix between dog and transcendental being? It's as if to say. "Dog? What is this dog to which you refer? Surely, you don't mean me. I mean, what TRULY defines a dog? Does a dog speak in English? Does a dog have the cognitive ability to use deductive reasoning and logic to evaluate a scenario and, thus, discern the conclusion as to who is REALLY haunting the new theme park in town? Can a being of true canine nature so easily palaver in open dialogue with all five members of the Harlem Globetrotters? Can an animal whose paradigms of perceptive reality are only limited to chasing cars, laying in hot kitchens, harassing squirrels at bird feeders, and running rampantly after balls that were never really thrown truly be comparable in intellect to Paul Newman? Or any other human for that matter? I only fit but a few of the characteristic criteria for being labeled a 'dog', but my consciousness transcends far above that, so much so that I am able to negate my physical form and liberate my own mind from the confines of existence. I see reality from an unfettered perspective, and are, therefore, able to solve these so-called mysteries so effectively and with great mental tact. The only stigma by which I am limited is the sad and pragmatic truth that no one really listens to me. They hear me speak, but they only hear the ramblings of a Scooby Snack-craving brute. But I seek solace in knowing that when words have long faded, as fleeting as being written on the rushing waters of time, it is our actions that define us in the stone of existence, it is what we do in this life that echoes in eternity. So…I ask again, surly and fractious theme park janitor, a label by which you are confined as well…Rog? Rhere?"

It is with these thoughts in mind that I can adamantly proclaim that Scooby Doo is the most abstruse and erudite crime solving dog in television. At least, until my hang over goes away.

Go Figure!

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	×		×		÷	
10	1	+	3	+	6	
	−		+		+	
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answers

Senior Symposium 2012

Saturday, November 10, 2012
12:00 to 3:00 pm
Center for the Sciences and Pharmacy

Bringing you one step closer to the "real world"

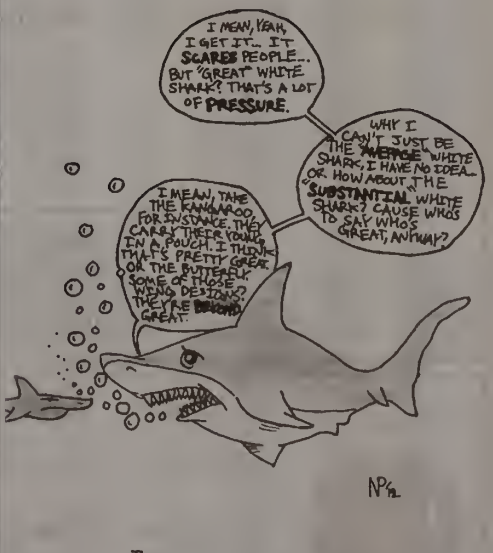
Staying Motivated
Business Etiquette
Financial Literacy
Life After Graduation
Networking
Graduate School

Resume Critique

Attend for your chance to win a FREE Senior Week package. Two Senior Formal Tickets, and many other prizes

Register online at http://bit.ly/seniorseries
Registration Deadline: November 2, 2012

Senior Success Series



THE EXISTENTIALISM OF SHARKS.

Comic submitted by: Nick Palmer

SPORTS

Midseason Bliss: #1 That Given Sunday

By: Josh Zaino

As I sit down to write this article, aptly titled Midseason Bliss (the new column I am starting on Fantasy Football and trying to find that "bliss" in creating the right lineup it takes to win) - I see myself struggling to find my own "bliss." I'm shaken up after the heartbreaking loss to the Seahawks on Sunday (10/14), there is one thing I know for sure this year and that is the 'any given Sunday' mentality is more prevalent than I can ever seem to recall in this league.

It wasn't bad enough for Sidney Rice to catch a 46-yard touchdown with 1:18 left in the game, utterly making Swiss cheese out of the Patriots secondary – but Tom Brady had his chance. A quarterback that arguably anyone would want at the helm in that situation, down by a point under two minutes left and 80 yards between his team and victory. But as everyone reading this article assuredly knows by now, it didn't happen – it didn't click and the 4 1/2 point road favorites were sent back home with another loss, leaving them 3-3 on the season and tied in their division. It wasn't as though this drive was the most crucial, it was important and it may have seemingly lost the team the game. However it the Patriots, and Tom Brady failed to score in three crucial Red Zone opportunities – once before the half and twice in the second half, with Tom Brady surrendering two pics (doubling his season total in one game). They had the Seahawks on the ropes with a 23-10 lead heading into the locker room for the half and all but had it locked up, but as it is also said, "it ain't over til the fat lady sings" and Russel Wilson was feeling especially large last Sunday – playing with the heat in his eyes the patriots simply didn't have. Wilson finished the game by going 16-27 and 3 touchdowns, which ultimately was good enough to his team hometown underdog's victory. Brady and the boys are now sent back to New England to face a rallying Jet's team under Rex Ryan and the resurgent Sanchez – fighting to keep that QB spot (whether he admits it or not). But also a player that, like Wilson against the Patriots, and so many other players this season proved that on 'any given Sunday' they can have what it takes to get it done.

I am of course referring to Shonn Green, who absolutely exploded against the Colts two weeks ago, putting up one of the best games out of any back this year – 161 yards, and 3 touchdowns on 31 carries. What does this mean for Shonn Greene? Probably not much, if you ask me – he was averaging just 43.4 yards a game, which is slightly skewed by his first game where he put up some big numbers against the Bills in garbage time and the Jets had already sealed the win. Two weeks ago, he faced a shaky Colt's defense at home, and then faced New England (who managed to hold Marshawn Lynch to his worst performance of the year last week on the ground – at just 41 yards). Greene also has a pretty tough road ahead of him facing the Dolphins this week who allow the second fewest rushing yards per game out of any team in the NFL. I would sell high on Shonn Greene, as his given Sunday has seemed to have come and gone. Get what you can for him, but if you can't dish him to someone else he might be a good flex play depending on your bye week schedule.

This week is undoubtedly a tough one when it comes to bye's and will leave a bunch of fantasy owners pulling their hair, questioning where that paradise from week one has gone. The simple truth of the matter is that in Fantasy Football, you are going to have to deal with byes and not just that – most likely injuries too. I have a few waiver wire pick-ups this week that I really like, that might just be one week saviors or permanent fixtures depending on how deep your league is. The number one most sought after player in most leagues this week, including my own, was Felix Jones. This man came to play last week, and despite his shaky start – albeit shaky career, he is a good play this week. I give him my 'zen' pick of the week. Toss em' in your lineup and forget about it, let the points roll in because he will have a great week. He will be bringing "bliss," this Sunday. Last week he showed that he dusted the dirt off his off season shoulder surgery and is back in shape (at least for a Cowboys backfield). DeMarco Murray is out this week, and so he will be getting the bulk of the work – making him an easy start in most leagues. The second waiver wire pick up I like this week is Daryl Richardson. As much as it pains me to say this (not just because I drafted Steven Jackson, as my potential workhorse this year), I really do like this guy. He is starting to get more carries every week, and as I watch him more and more, he shows just how explosive of a runner he is – including one amazing 44-yard run. And Jackson is only showing his age more and more, which isn't good for his playing time. The last pick I like off the wires for most leagues is Jonathon Dwyer, the late announcement that Mendenhall will be on the sidelines proves to be a good fortune for this man. He has shown some good runs, and might get the opportunity for his 'given Sunday' this week.

As such on any Sunday there are those players on your team that you see on your bench and you want to hit yourself for not starting, or at least find a DeLorean and punch it to 88 before the game started so you can make the right call. This week I have three guys that you might have been benching on your team that will give you that 'bliss' and three guys that will leave you banging your head against the wall and catching smack from your league mates.

As this is the first installment I strictly went on what I had to say, I would love to field your questions/concerns/advice in the next one, please forward all of this to jz299@wne.edu. until I get my Midseason Bliss email/blog up and running.

Congratulations!

The Commonwealth Coast Conference on Monday has pegged Western New England University middle hitter, Junior Tyler Singh, as the CCC Player of the Week, for the seven-day period ending Sunday. She led the Golden Bears women's volleyball squad to a 3-0 week by averaging 2.91 kills with a .365 attack percentage over the span of 11 sets played. She also put up 13 blocks and added seven digs on the week. She had perhaps her best all-around match on Saturday at Wesleyan, where she recorded match bests of 15 kills (also a season high), six service aces, and six blocks while hitting .387 in a 3-1 victory.

FALL ATHLETICS RECORDS*

Football:
Wins: 5
Losses: 3
Conference Play: 3-2

Men's Soccer:
Wins: 9
Losses: 7
Ties: 3
Conference Play: 4-3-2

Women's Tennis
Wins: 5
Losses: 8
Conference Play: 3-5

Women's Soccer:
Wins: 8
Losses: 9
Ties: 1
Conference Play: 2-6-0

Men's Cross Country:
Placings: 12/21 on 10/13

Men's Golf:
Placings: T3/9 on 10/13

Women's Cross Country:
Placings: 10/23 on 10/13

Women's Field Hockey:
Wins: 5
Losses: 12
Conference Play: 0-8

Women's Volleyball
Wins: 20
Losses: 5
Conference Play: 5-1

*As of 10/22/12

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The Westerner

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

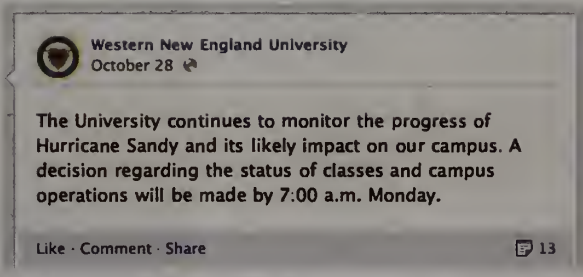
Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Administration explains Hurricane Sandy closing decisions

By: Andrea Melone

Sunday evening, October 28, students, faculty, and staff waited with trepidation and anticipation for Hurricane Sandy, and prepared for its threatened effects, while the Western New England administration discussed plans to handle the situation.

At approximately 5:30am, the campus received the e2campus texts and emails confirming school's closing that Monday, October 29. Later, around 3:00pm, the second message went out, informing everyone that the school would also be closed Tuesday, the 30 of October.



The Facebook post that started cantraversy
Image:http: //www.facebaok.cam/WesternNewEnglandUniversity

While states such as New York and New Jersey faced Sandy at her worst, WNE was left essentially unharmed. Springfield did experience strong winds and rain, but the power stayed on and the campus survived what was initially called "Frankenstorm."

The decision wasn't released until around 5:30 Monday morning, which upset and frustrated many WNE students and parents, who were either inconvenienced or worried about their safety. Angry replies met the Western New Eng-

Continued on page 2

Student leaders attend NACA conference

By: Hannah Berling

Eleven student leaders traveled as a delegation to Hartford from Thursday November 8 until Sunday, November 11, to attend the annual National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) Northeast Conference.

The delegation was comprised of seven CAB (Campus Activities board), members, a Student Senate representative, a member of U&Me (United and Mutually Equal), a Residence Hall Association representative, and a member of GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance). The conference allowed participants to learn programming and leadership techniques, as well as to see performances by a wide range of artists, and get a chance to talk with agents and vendors.

Carol Haskell, a CAB representative of the delegation, said that she was able to benefit from the conference.

"NACA was a great opportunity. It offered me a chance to learn ways to improve the quality of life on campus, while helping me refine my leadership skills."

NACA delegatian gathers for phatagraph
Image: Ian Martin

Haskell also got to take part in the "block booking" process, which that allows schools to contract acts for a discounted price by booking them on similar dates to colleges and universities in our area.

"Block booking is a great way to work closely with other schools to get reduced pricing on great acts we'd otherwise be unable to afford. It also provides a great opportunity to network with other schools and agencies to create a strong professional network and build relationships for the school," Haskell said.

One of the most popular aspects of the NACA experience is the chance to see about 50 different acts perform live during the conference. These acts can range from slam poets, to acoustic musicians, to comedians, variety acts, or bands.

"It was an amazing experience getting to see all the acts and being able to talk to them after," stated Senate representative Dianna Willms.

Delegates were given the chance to talk to the act performers they had seen and their agents at CAMP, or the Campus Activities Marketplace. During CAMP times, many artists gave out copies of CDs, promotional DVDs, information packets, and a wide range of other

Continued an page 2

News

Hurricane Sandy
cont. from first page.

land University post regarding the upcoming decision by 7am Monday on Facebook, including "I really hope the school responds to this thread. They really need to explain themselves and their total disregard for the safety of their students and faculty."

There was a response: "Thanks to everybody for your comments. The safety of students, faculty, and staff are always the University's primary concern. Please continue to monitor e2campus, the University website, and this page for updates."

Jerry Hirsch, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, was involved with the decision process. He explained how he and the others involved in the process follow four different weather sources to try to determine what the impact will be later. They also keep track of other institutions in the area to see what they are doing, and somewhat base their decisions on what areas nearby decide.

"We try to make the call before 6am," he stated. "But it's all guess work. Just as meteorologists struggle to accurately predict weather patterns, the weather doesn't always act as expected."

The process comes down to different segments. Before the final decision can be made, preplanning must take place. As early as Thursday, October 25, a team met to determine how to handle an emergency, should the worst take place. There they planned for provisions, so that students could still eat on campus, contingency plans in case they had to evacuate, how to accommodate all the students, and communicated with maintenance and Public Safety regarding potential issues due to severe weather conditions. When they decide, they also have to keep in mind those driving to school, as well as how the storm will affect everyone in regards to their families and neighborhoods.

Once the final decision was made, David Stawasz, Associate Director of Media Relations and Internal Communications, and Barbara Moffat, Vice President for Marketing and External Affairs, took control of publicizing.

"Our first priority is e2campus because it gets out to everyone," stated Stawasz.

"We're always encouraging parents to be part of it as well," Moffat remarked, explaining that having parents receive e2campus notifications as well keeps them up to date on their children's safety and prevents frantic phone calls.

From there, they notify the mass media; they update the news feed and main switchboard message, as well as put up a banner on the website. They also prepare the campus ahead of time with an email in both the fall and spring that goes out to the community, describing typical plans in the event of an emergency. In addition, they use Facebook and Twitter, but those are not among their primary vehicles of communication with the campus.

"We saw the posts from individuals about their concerns for the cancellation," Moffat said. "We forwarded every single post to the decision makers." These concerns were taken into consideration when the decision to cancel school was made. Although, as Stawasz notes, "some were just wrong." For instance, one remark complained that all schools in Springfield had cancelled already, when at that point they had not all yet decided. "We do keep in contact with other schools."

"Sometimes situations are beyond our control and knowledge of what to expect," Moffat explained, regarding the chaos surrounding last year's freak October snowstorm often referred to as either "Snowtober" or "Snowpocalypse." "We try to take lessons learned as best we can, when it fits. There's always a unique set of problems and challenges to address. It's a case-by-case basis."

Even though two days of class were cancelled, the final exams are scheduled to follow as planned, barring any future complications. For now, students, faculty, and staff can accept the cancellations and understand that such important decisions cannot be made rashly.

For more answers, please contact Hirsch, Stawasz, or Moffat, whose contact information can be found on the WNE website.

NACA conference
cont. from first page.

goodies so that delegates could bring examples of the performers back to campus.

"I learned so much at NACA and I can't wait to bring all of the information back to my organizations and the rest of campus," stated delegate Vicky Trezise.

Current CAB Comedy Chairperson Matt McLaughlin said he enjoyed having the chance to talk with so many artists and agents.

"It was a really cool experience talking to performers and having a genuine conversation without even having to talk about booking them."

Part of the learning experience that students got was through attending educational sessions. These sessions consisted of hour-long presentations put on by student affairs personal, agents, or other students, and allowed them to learn about a wide range of topics. Many of the educational sessions focused on leading groups, being a better-balanced programmer, or marketing techniques for events.

Jasmine Chapman, the representative from U&Me, says she gained a lot from this portion of the conference.

"The educational sessions that I attended were helpful in learning how to be an effective student leader," she stated.

RHA representative, Courtney Ciavarella, said that NACA has opened her eyes to where she may want to go after graduation.

"NACA really helped me to understand what I want to do with the rest of my life. I'm really glad I got to share this experience with the people that I did and I can't wait to work with them on programs in the future."

On the Friday of the conference, five members of the Campus Activities Board got the chance to present in the Excellence in Programming competition for schools with 3,000 undergraduates or less. The group gave a fifteen-minute presentation on the structure of CAB along with five programs they believed made our programming the best in the region. In the end, the group was narrowly beat by Holy Cross, but they were still praised by other delegations for the quality of WNE programming.

"Being selected as a finalist for the Excellence in Programming Award was such an honor. It was a great experience to get to show others why we love doing what we do and all the hard work we've done to get to where we are now. I enjoyed every moment of the experience," stated one of the presenters, Jenny Woo.

Western New England was able to walk away with an award for "Best Themed Campaign" for Junior Council's "Hunting Games" program. The program was selected to win after the article from The Westerner on the event was submitted to the NACA committee.

The conference offered an array of students the possibility to see the wide range of programming that is available to bring back to campus, and has sparked many ideas for artists that may be seen at WNE in the future.

To read more about the delegations' experiences, you can read their blogs at http://wneprogrammers.wordpress.com/.

Fall Showcase Concert

Join the music department in celebrating "Songs of Life Begun," the theme for this year's Fall Showcase. The concert will be held on Friday, November 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM in Sleith 100. The program this year features songs about new beginnings and triumph over struggle. Multiple groups will be performing, including the Campus Chorus, Concert Band, University Singers, and also a new Chamber Ensemble comprised of a cellist, violinist, and pianist.

Invite your friends for a night of moving music and light refreshments. Freshmen may also come to earn BEAR Points.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are Thursdays @ 7:30 pm in Rivers 105

ENTERAINMENT

Book Review: Wild Punch

By: Spencer Ives

There are some areas of literature that seem to have been fading out as the time rolls on. The elegant era of the narrative poem is being lost in a world where "Teen Paranormal Romance" takes up four bookshelves. One has not been lost quite yet, however, and that is the short story. Creston Lea makes this point dazzling obvious with his breakout publication of short fiction, "Wild Punch."

Lea, in this collection, proves the worth of a simple art, telling the story exactly as it needs to be told. His stories range from a page and a half to thirty-seven pages. Each is given just as much information as is needed to give the reader an ending that is acceptable (though not always desirable), or a consideration of life that I have seen persist months after reading, the philosophic and personal issues of the characters cropping up at random intervals.

The cover of Lea's book, "Wild Punch"
Image: Goodreads.com

Beyond simple length is the necessary understanding of description; how little is confusing, and how much is overstated? This separation between too much explanation and too little description is one that Lea overcomes with ease. Certainly, there may be times when a little more could have been included for the reader's benefit, just as well as a bit less could have improved the poignancy, but on the whole, this collection comes closer to treading the ideal balance than most, if not all, pieces of literature I have encountered before it.

The characters are what make this book magnificent. This is the simple and absolute truth I see as I reflect on the book. When recommending this collection to friends and family, this is undoubtedly the one point I cover in excess. Lea's characters all carry the sense of hidden complexity, an unseen emotional pool going yards deeper in some and leagues in others. This is accomplished through a variety of ways: either sparse outlines that frame the ideas of something more, telling pieces of a past history that don't tell everything a reader would want to know, the desperately honest experience of a real but unexpected narrator, or the complex and well-orchestrated webs of believable points surrounding one specific character. I have found times where, drifting through my days, I will recall old friends and muse about their whereabouts and happenings, only to shake myself to the realization that they are in fact the creations of Creston Lea, slipped so sublimely into my memory as actual instead of fictional.

It is not only the characters that I so deeply appreciate in this collection. It is Lea's ability to so beautifully recreate scenes and atmosphere akin to the hills of New England. It is his style of taking something that may have been commonplace at one point or time, and making it appear so extraordinary in its simplicity and overlooked beauty. It is the sheer emotional sympathy welled up for so many characters. It is the items of consideration that have recurred at day or night and draw my mental focus back to these stories over and over. It is for all of these reasons, and so many more, that I classify this book as one of the greatest pieces of literature I have read, and highly recommend it to anyone looking for a few truly phenomenal stories.

Windham Hall council hosts SWINTER Late Night event

By: Steph Elizondo

Are you excited for the snowy winter nights, or are you longing for those warm, sunny summer afternoons? In either case, have no fear, because the Windham Hall Council is bringing Western New England University a "SWINTER" late night event that everyone will enjoy! The event will take place on December 1 from 11 pm to 2 a.m. in The Rock Café. It will be a night of activities, music, and food, for summer and winter lovers alike.

The hall council is planning for a multitude of activities, contests, and refreshments to entice all those who attend. On the summer side of things, there will be lemonade, fruit kabobs, and an ice cream bar to indulge in. There will be a limbo contest with a summer themed prize for the winner who can go the lowest. For winter's side of the event, there will be hot chocolate and cookies, including sugar cookies for decorating, for everyone's sweet tooth to enjoy. There will also be a graham cracker house building and decorating contest with a winter themed prize for the best in show. These will be served on a first come first serve basis, as there may not be enough for everyone to make one. So be sure to get there early, grab a partner, and build away!

Windham council members also ask those who plan to attend to dress to the theme as part of another contest. There will be one winner of best dressed in summer attire, and one winner of best dressed in winter wear, each awarded a prize, to be announced.

The members of Windham Hall Council have been planning this event for quite some time, and are looking forward to having a great number of students come and see what they have to offer. It is bound to be a great event. Everyone on campus that night should make sure to attend, bring all their friends, and have a ton of fun, while supporting Windham Hall in the process.

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Features

The Boys and Girls Club halloween party

By: Gennah Borg

The volunteers and Boys and Girls club pose for a picture
Image: Boys and Girls Club

As young children, most of us had the privilege of going trick or treating on Halloween with our friends. Dressed up in our best costumes, we went door to door shouting, "Trick or Treat!" for candy to fill our bags with. After a long night of walking the neighborhood, two and sometimes three times, we all remember counting, sorting, and trading our pieces of candy. Unfortunately, not all children live in safe enough neighborhoods to allow them to trick or treat on this festive holiday. With help from both the community service club C.A.R.E. (Community Actions Rewards Everyone), as well as the United and Mutually Equal club (U&ME) here at Western New England University, the children of the local Springfield Boys and Girls Club were able to enjoy this candy-crazed day in a safe environment!

On the afternoon of October 31, the day of Halloween, C.A.R.E. and U&ME helped set up and run a Halloween party for the children of the Boys and Girls Club. Members of both clubs, including myself as a member of C.A.R.E., decorated the gym with cobwebs and Halloween-themed posters and signs. Tables were also placed around the gym for Halloween themed activities that the children could participate in. Activities ranged from creating your own candy bag to carnival-styled games.

During the party, I got to work at the tattoo station. From monsters to pumpkins to haunted houses, there was a different tattoo to satisfy every child's desire! I enjoyed talking to the children about their favorite costumes, and of course, their favorite candy to eat on Halloween. I was overjoyed with how happy the children were to see local college students helping to make their Halloween a special one. It completed my afternoon to hear the children thank me for coming to their party. I felt that I was able to make a difference within the local community by brightening up these kids' Halloween.

To conclude the Halloween party, C.A.R.E. and U&ME held a costume contest for the children. While determining the top winners, we had the opportunity to interact with the children one last time before the day ended by playing an enthusiastic game of Freeze Dance. It was worthwhile to watch the children laughing, dancing, and enjoying themselves at their Halloween party that we simply helped to make possible. "The Boys and Girls Club Halloween party went extremely well! It was so rewarding to see all of their smiling faces," says Sitara Booker, the Children and Youth chairperson of C.A.R.E. at Western New England University.

Good Vibrations: Soundtracks

By: Cara Federici

Disclaimer: I have realized after writing this piece that I have a strong love for anything and everything created in the late 90s/early 2000s more so than most modern commodities, so if anyone wants to build a time machine and let me on board, it would be greatly appreciated. I miss my Tamagotchi. Even though I always forgot to feed it.

Now I would like to step back and revel for a moment in some wonderful soundtracks that I grew up listening to from some great (and maybe not so popular) films that introduced me to some of my all-time favorite songs. To this day, I still cannot listen to Thurston Harris' "Itty Bitty Pretty One" without wanting to move Cheerios with my mind just like Matilda. It'll happen. Someday.

One of my absolute favorite songs is by New Radicals entitled "Mother We Just Can't Get Enough," first introduced to me by the film "A Walk to Remember." There's something about this song that made me fall head over headphones in like with their radical sound. Thus it is only fair that I thank the music coordinators who produced the AWTR soundtrack, because I most likely would have never heard the song if not for that film. "Mother" was just the beginning of my beautiful musical relationship with New Radicals leading to my like for "You Get What You Give", another brilliant song by the band that should be heard by everyone everywhere.

The AWTR soundtrack additionally introduced me to bands such as Switchfoot, Toploader, and the musical stylings of Mandy Moore (admit it, you probably liked her song "Candy" at one point or another too). This is one of my favorite albums to sing along to while driving, but I always end up wanting to watch the movie when I get to my destination. I have no shame: the scene where Shane West helps Moore check-off items on her bucket list gets me every time.

Next is most definitely a guilty pleasure of mine. I think that my love for Titanic stems from my continuous crush on Leonardo DiCaprio, circa 1997, but nevertheless, the film has pretty fantastic tunes. I'm a sucker for a good violin quartet, but in this case my favorite song is played by Gaelic Storm. The band's track "An Irish Party in Third Class" plays during my favorite scene in the movie, but the fact that the song on the soundtrack has actual dialogue from the film makes me chuckle. I can't help but giddily smile each time the song pops up on my iPod and Leo asks, "So, you wanna go to a real party?" Who wouldn't wanna go anywhere with Leo? I mean, really Rose, there was room for both of you on the damn door.

As a fan of both Heath Ledger and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, "10 Things I Hate About You" is a must when talking about my favorite movie soundtracks. I have 10 Things to thank for introducing me to Semisonic years before hearing the hit "Closing Time" and Letters to Cleo's version of "I Want You to Want Me" made infamous by the closing scene of the film. Semisonic's "F.N.T." featured on the 10 Things soundtrack is a song that almost sums up the 10 Things plot within one awesome 90s jam that will always lift your spirits if you're having a dull day.

What's your favorite movie/soundtrack? I want to hear about it! This is the second-to-last Good Vibrations that will be featured in *The Westerner*, because I am graduating this semester, but I have created a Good Vibrations page that will feature both past articles and future work. So if you've been picking up Good Vibrations over the past year, please feel free to follow my work online [http://goodvibrationsoombopbop.tumblr.com/]. There you will be able to give me positive/negative feedback about past articles and future work; please stop by and tell me about your favorite musical endeavors!

FEATURES

In a Nutshell: an Advice Column

Q: If my roommate is being overly affectionate with her boyfriend while I'm in the room, what should I do? –Anonymous

A: ***She Says:*** A *very* loaded question, indeed. First thing you could try is to simply leave the room when this starts to happen, and come back in a little while. However, if this is a frequent occurrence, that is clearly NOT what you're going to want to do. What you can, of course, try is talking to your roommate. If she is a friend, or even just a kind enough roommate, she should understand that she is being rude by doing that in front of you, as though you are invisible. Tell her how uncomfortable it makes you, and that you should not have to deal with that in your own room. Perhaps you can come to an agreement of a time, every once in a while, that she can have her boyfriend over, and you step out for a while - but not so often that it as though HE lives there and you don't. If you can't agree on something like that, maybe suggest that she go over to his room more often. You can actually put all of this in your roommate contract. Set down the rules together, so that both of you feel comfortable living there, and you are not put out of the room because she decided to invite her boyfriend over. If the problem persists after you've asked, and she just refuses to respect the boundaries of your shared room, go talk to your RA. Don't wait around for him or her to be doing more than just being "affectionate." Your RA can talk to your roommate and let her know that what's she's doing isn't fair to you. The problem can be solved, as long as you are willing to do something to change it. Don't let her control the room as though it is only hers and you are a visitor. HE is the visitor, and if this is a problem, YOU have to do something about it. Don't think that you are being rude or unfair to your roommate by discussing it with your RA; you have to be able to come together, discuss this issue, and come to an agreement on what to do about it, or else the rest of your year together is going to be hell for the both of you.

He Says: Since the archaic beginnings of higher learning, in scholarly halls of stone, in grand forums echoing with profound lectures, THIS has been proven to be a query that has plagued mankind for centuries: "How do I handle my roomies doin' the Box-Spring Boogie?" Well, I remind you once again of the simplicity of my freshman-year mantra: "This isn't MY room. This isn't YOUR room. This is OUR room." Much to the socially awkward dismay of most of us, this includes doing the Twenty-Toe Mambo. If your roommate is at all decent, he/she will have the courtesy to not engage his/her partner while you're trying to rest for the exam tomorrow. If this becomes a habit, then this isn't so much as a distant second to going into your fridge and realizing that half your Black Forest Ham on wheat is sitting in someone else's stomach. It's all about RESPECT and COMPROMISE. Doesn't matter how intimate it is. If they're going heels to Jesus while you're lying in bed, taking thorough account of the number of ceiling tiles during the minutes that feel like lifetimes, that shows nothing but disrespect towards YOU and YOUR living habits. Confront them, but at the same time, show them the respect that you expect to be shown towards you. And if it becomes a habit, don't feel the least bit shy in telling your RA. And you can go ahead and shed that pathetic "tattle-tale" notion that you learned in elementary school. You're adults. Act like it.

If you would like to submit questions to the Westerner, please email us at our new email westerner@wneclubs.org

Green Tips

By: Andrea Melone

Follow these three basic green tips:

Reduce:

This can be as simple as trying to reduce the amount of electricity you use, and avoid wasting water. You could also watch what you buy, and purchase goods with less plastic (hint: avoid individually wrapped items). Just try to stop wasting whenever possible.

Reuse:

Just because you've used a notebook once doesn't mean you have to get rid of it! The unused paper will be helpful elsewhere, and the no one will mind you using a statistics notebook in your chemistry class the next semester. Also, you can reuse bags, clothes, etc. The possibilities of what can be reused are almost endless.

Recycle:

As always, recycle your paper, cans, bottles, cell phones, etc, wherever possible. Recycle bins for such items can be found around campus and in some residence halls.

The Westerner has a new e-mail! Please send all emails regarding articles, corrections, ads ect. to the new e-mail address at westerner@wneclubs.org

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: westerner@wneclubs.org

Beer Review: Opa-Opa's India Pale Ale

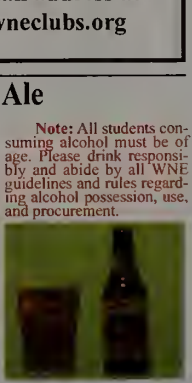
By: Chris Principato

Hold on to your hats, my fellow beer enthusiasts, for I am about to introduce you to the India Pale Ale (IPA). IPAs are crafted to have a heavy hops flavor with little to no malt flavor. IPAs are not for the first-time beer taster. The bitterness of the hops in IPAs usually turns people away after their first try, but I highly recommend giving all brewing styles at least three tries. Three tries for a brew usually lets the drinker rule out extraneous factors that affect their experience such as food pairings, fullness, brands of beer, or even mood.

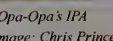
Opa-Opa's India Pale Ale will have you screaming "Opa!" after your first sip. As expected from an IPA, this brew is chock-full O' hops. As you approach this IPA, the hops permeate the air, and as Ron Burgundy would say, it "stings the nostrils." Upon first taste, the bitterness of hops is a bit overwhelming, but do not fear; this IPA grows on you. Second sip, your palate acclimates to the original shock of the hops and a very light malt comes to fruition. This malt is short-lived, but counteracts the hops and relaxes the flavor. Perfect food pairings for this IPA are spicy foods especially curry-based dishes. The heavy hops flavor brings out and intensifies the spice in any dish. Opa-Opa's IPA does not mess around with its flavor, it is crafted as a no frills IPA for the hops lover, and for that I say they hit the nail on the head with this brew. Due to its harsh beginning and bitter flavor for the first time college drinker, I am going to have to give Opa-Opa's India Pale Ale 2.5 out of five beers.

Opa-Opa is a brewpub located in Southampton, Massachusetts, and not only features eleven microbrews, but offers great food as well. I recommend checking out Opa-Opa's Southampton location this weekend, and don't forget to take time to enjoy the local fare.

Note: All students consuming alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.



Opa-Opa's IPA
Image: Chris Princeipato



2.5/5 Beers

Features & Opinion

Give loans to low-income families

By: Steph Elizondo

I am from a middle-class American family, in the simplest sense. My parents do not make a surplus of money, nor do they have immense trouble getting together enough money for what we need; we're right in the middle. Because of this, like most students, I had to apply for scholarships and loans before coming to college since we obviously couldn't pay tuition out of pocket. I have to say I was lucky when it came to loans, because the banks did not give me any trouble with applying and obtaining the money that I needed. I didn't really realize until I got here and started talking to other students that it wasn't always that straightforward.

I have met a fair number of students here who come from low-income families, and because of that, have dealt with a lot of difficulty in getting loans. Banks think they won't be able to pay the money back, so they deny them what is needed for these students to get an education.

I happen to think that this is incredibly unfair. Obviously the students who come from those low-income families are the ones who need the loans more, and need more money in general, so why can't they get it? Is the logic behind this that they don't want lower-income people to be educated? Because it doesn't seem right that since they cannot pay right away like others, they have to be denied learning. What if one of the most brilliant students was coming from a poorer family; should that person be denied higher education, and thus a well-paid job in the future? It all just seems so illogical in the long run.

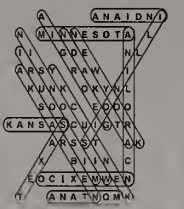
To me, the point of loans is to assist those people who need more money because of the fact that they do not have enough to begin with. However, when it comes to college loans, that seems to be backwards. Banks seem to be giving more money to those who already have a more significant amount of income from their home. I just wish that this system could somehow be rectified so that more students, despite their economic background, could receive the education that they want and deserve.

Support your peers by tuning into GBTV on channel 8.2 and the WNEK 105.1 radio station.

Magic maze

Answers

STATES WITH A PLACE NAMED COLUMBUS



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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8	3	5	7	2	1	6	9	4
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9	7	3	2	6	4	1	5	8
6	2	1	9	5	8	3	4	7
1	5	9	3	4	7	8	2	6
2	8	4	5	1	6	9	7	3
3	6	7	8	9	2	4	1	5

Public Safety Blotter

On October 11, University Police responded to Plymouth Hall for a fire alarm. When they arrived, they discovered damage to the drywall in the vestibule area. It was determined that students had damaged the wall, and in doing so, dust from the damage caused the alarm. The students were held responsible for the damage.

On October 12, a student reported the unauthorized use of a credit card over $100 dollars. The card had been misplaced and discovered by a fellow student, who used the card to purchase food at a local restaurant. The investigation identified the offender, who confessed to the wrongdoing and reimbursed the reporting party for the theft.

On October 13, University Police provided medical assistance to a student that was injured in the bed race. The injury occurred when the bed came to a quick stop and the student face collided with the front seat passenger. The patient was treated and advised to contact University Police if the symptoms worsened.

On October 14, University Police on foot patrol observed students smoking marijuana in Gateway Village. A "bong" and a small amount of marijuana were seized in the incident. Student affairs were notified and the students are facing disciplinary action and possible fines.

On October 15, Springfield Police began investigating an assault and battery / possible kidnapping that occurred off campus at Breckwood Blvd. and Grape Street, about a half mile from the main campus. Students were traveling from an off campus party and reported that they observed a person being struck with a baseball bat and forced in to a car. They provided a description of the four attackers to Springfield Police who are searching for the suspects.

On October 18, Patrol Officers observed two students smoking marijuana in a car behind the AHLC. The students were questioned and surrendered the marijuana. The students face a $100 fine and disciplinary action.

On October 21, University Police assisted Springfield Police with three off campus parties on Donbray Street, Wilbraham Road and Bradley Road. Students who rent these houses were issued city ordinance fines and face University sanctions for violations of the Student Conduct Code. Additionally, University Police responded to several alcohol related medical calls, two students were transported by ambulance to the hospital from life threatening alcohol overdoses.

On October 26, Medical assistance was rendered to a Law Student who suffered a seizure. Witnessed stated the student struck her head as she fell to the ground. University Police gave medical assistance until the ambulance arrived and transported the patient to the hospital for treatment.

On October 27, Springfield Police issued $300 of city ordinance citations to the residents of an off campus house on Sunrise Terrace. there was noise, and broken bottles and trash were scattered in the area, upsetting local city residents, who also reported malicious destruction of personal property.

October 28, an E2 emergency alert was sent to the community advising that two students were robbed at knifepoint off campus at the intersection of Breckwood Blvd. and Apple Street. No one was injured, the robbers took cell phones and cash. The students were traveling from an off campus party and were robbed by 3 suspects. The students provided descriptions of the suspects and Springfield Police are investigating. Students are advised to use caution and good judgment when traveling off campus.

E2 emergency alerts on October 29 and 30 Hurricane Sandy forced the closing of the University. The slow-moving storm was being closely watched by the University's Emergency Management team, who were planning for the worst. We were fortunate to escape the brunt of the storm, with just one report of a damaged vehicle. High winds caused a tree limb to smash the windshield of a student's car in Evergreen.

Reminder, please make sure that your E2 campus account is active. Winter is coming; select weather alerts for cancelation and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSFSR.pdf

Sports & Puzzles

Midseason Bliss #3

By: Josh Zaino

For the first time in what seems like a long time, I sit down to write this article and I don't feel like chewing through my pencil. No, no Doug Martin 4 touchdown days, no Russel Wilson bombs to beat the Pats, and my fantasy team actually has won already. Not to detract from my celebration, I'm not trying to say that this week wasn't as crazy as the last few – it absolutely was. One undefeated team, the last one in the NFL this season, lost a scorcher in New Orleans. Yes, the Falcons went down in one of the most exciting games of the day. Tight-end Tony Gonzalez got his 100th and 101st (he is the highest scoring tight-end of all time), and they failed to score on the goal-line with less than two minutes left (the 1972 Dolphins can celebrate, yet again). Julio Jones suffered a shin injury, but did return, so fantasy owners will want to keep an eye on his progress throughout the week as they play a tough Arizona pass defense next week, trying to bounce back off the loss. The Rams and the 49ers tied in what was another whacky game, riddled with clock errors, missed kicks, and the Rams special teams making tremendous plays. Steven Jackson had his first 100 yard game of the season, with Amendola back in the lineup - both players are looking good now for next week - playing the Jets (who are slumping). And the Texans surprised the Bears, beating them at their own game in what was undoubtedly the most rainy game of the week. The Texans beat the Bears in the turnover battle 4-2, a rare loss for the #1 defense in the league. The story of the day, however was the concussions, and this will definitely affect a lot of fantasy leagues next week.

The 1:00 games finished and all things seemed pretty quiet on the injury front, and I felt pretty good about where the week was headed. And suddenly as if the floodgate had opened (and the offensive lines took off for a lunch break), the later games brought the hurt. Three out of the four starting QBs went down in the last four games of the day on Sunday. It was like watching dominoes fall down in a stack, and at times was unbelievable to me. Smith went down first with a concussion, then Vick and Cutler falling suit. Three quarterbacks all going down on the same day, with the same exact injury. It was surreal. And this resulted in some surreal outcomes: first was the tie I mentioned earlier – that came from Smith's 49er's. Then was the loss that came from the Eagles, who surrendered three defensive touchdowns to the Cowboys (which is the most of any team this season in one game). And the Texans smashed the Bears in a defensive clash, beating Cutler's team at their own game. And then beyond all comprehension, the Monday night game resulted in a similar outcome. Big Ben went down on the Big stage. Making him the fourth quarterback down in the week, as he separated his shoulder and even left the stadium to get x-rays in the 3rd quarter. These downed quarterbacks are going to have some serious repercussions in the fantasy realm – especially this week, as most likely none of them will start. The upside to Smith's case is that Kaepernick looked great backing him up, and lead his team back – giving them a chance to win the game (which was ultimately lost by a missed field goal in OT). He looked real good running the ball and even made some nice passes, finishing the day with 17 standard points. And Leftwich will get a good opportunity, starting a whole game – with a good group around him. However, with the rest of the QBs, you might want to pursue alternate teams' quarterbacks to the backup, as they might wind up hurting you more than helping.

On that note I'm going to start my picks of the week. And as I'm on a high note, I'm going to start with my "Bliss" picks. And this week, I'm going to start with the Quarterbacks, as some of you will most likely have some issues there, especially in deeper leagues.

My first "Bliss" pick is Sam Bradford, who is playing a struggling Jets team this week. Last week he got back his workhorse in Amendola, and it really got the entire offense rolling. Amendola received for 102 yards, and would have gotten a bunch more (and maybe even a touchdown) if it weren't for an illegal formation called in OT. This comeback also hoisted Jackson to his first 100 yard game, as mentioned earlier, and when this happens (you get both sides of the ball working), your offense is going to score points which is exactly what you want out of a fantasy QB (or any player you own on a fantasy offense). Bradford threw for 275 yards and 2 touchdowns, which was his second best performance of the year. Look for him to take advantage of this Jets team at home (the Jets are one of the worst on the road this year), and put up a big win and big numbers for his and your team.

My second "Bliss" pick this week is going to be Byron Leftwich, who quite frankly, looked pretty bad against the Chiefs as the Steelers were lucky to get a win at home on Monday night. I like Leftwich for a few reasons, and mainly for the cast he has around him. He has the best supporting case of the back up QBs that are going to be playing this week, (especially in terms of offense, defense can certainly be argued), and that's what is going to matter when it comes to putting up fantasy points. The Steelers have been running the ball extremely well as of late, and with a bevy of different backs to share the load. This will take the pressure off of Leftwich, and help him excel when he has to. He also has allstar Mike Wallace in his arsenal, whose deep threat ability is that Antonio Brown may be back, which will only increase his value, so look for his injury report as Sunday gets closer. Secondly, is that the game on Monday there were the first snaps he's seen in a live game in over a season; look for the practice this week to improve his play vastly.

My last "Bliss" pick of this week is Chris Ivory. This is a great flex play option in most leagues, especially deeper leagues. He is going up against the ever sloppy Raiders defense that only allowed a modest 64 yards on the ground and a TD to Ray Rice last week (still a solid day in fantasy). This guy proved he is explosive, and had one of the best runs of the week against the Falcons in week 10, with a stiff arm on Dunta Robinson. Most of his fantasy value came from one 56 yard TD run, and Ingram had most of the carries – but against the Raiders it wouldn't be much of a surprise to believe that he could repeat those kind of results.

Being on such a high note, I don't have any blight picks this week. Except to stay away from the Giants, and luckily they're on bye. For any questions, or concerns email me at jz299676@wne.edu.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4			6				6	
		5	7	2		6		
	1				6			2
	4		1		3	2		
		3		6			5	6
6		1			6			7
	5			4	7		2	
2		4	5			9		
3				9				5

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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MAGIC MAZE ● STATES WITH PLACE NAME COLUMBUS

N	I	F	A	D	A	X	V	A	N	A	I	D	N	
T	N	Q	M	I	N	N	E	S	O	T	A	O	L	
J	I	I	H	F	G	D	E	C	A	H	N	L	Y	
U	A	R	S	Y	R	R	A	W	P	N	I	L	J	
F	D	K	U	N	K	B	O	K	Y	N	L	O	Z	
V	T	R	S	O	O	C	Q	E	O	O	O	O	M	
K	A	N	S	A	S	C	U	I	G	T	R	I	H	
D	B	Z	Y	A	R	S	S	T	W	V	A	K	T	
Q	O	N	X	L	K	B	I	I	N	I	C	H	F	
C	A	E	O	C	I	X	E	M	W	E	N	Z	X	
V	T	U	S	A	N	A	T	N	O	M	K	R	Q	

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, N. Carolina, N. Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Y, Texas, Wisco

Weekly Sudoku and Magic Maze answers on page 6

SPORTS

Upcoming Events:

(Home games are in bold)

Friday Nov. 16
Men's Basketball at Eastern Connecticut State 5:30 pm

Saturday Nov. 17
Wrestling at Springfield College Doug Parker Invitational 10:00 am
Women's Swimming at Gordon College 12:00 pm
Women's Basketball at Emmanuel College 3:00 pm
Men's Ice Hockey vs Salve Regina 7:45 pm
Men's Basketball vs Clark or Bowdoin 1 or 3 pm

Sunday Nov. 18
Women's Basketball vs RPI or Lehman 1 or 3 pm

Tuesday Nov. 20
Women's Basketball vs Lasell College 6:00 pm
Men's Ice Hockey at Manhattanville College 7:00 pm
Men's Basketball at Amherst College 7:30 pm

Wednesday Nov. 28
Men's Basketball vs Gordon College 5:30 pm
Women's Swimming vs Westfield State University 6:00 pm
Women's Basketball vs Gordon College 7:30 pm
Men's Ice Hockey at Becker College 7:50 pm

Friday Nov. 30
Women's Swimming at Roger Williams Snowball Invitational 5:00 pm

Western New England University Home of the Golden Bears!

Good luck to all Winter athletic teams!

Interested in sports?

Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears? Have a knack for journalism or writing in general? The Westerner would love to have you! We are looking for any students who have an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write one WNE sports related articles per issue.

If you are interested please contact us at westerner@wneclubs.org or on Twitter @wne_westerner or via our facebook page!

Join us at one of our meetings held Thursdays at 7:30pm in Rivers 105.

Congratulations!

Women's Volleyball wins ECAC Championship!

"Winning the ECAC Championship is an exciting way to finish a great season. I'm so proud of each and every player on our team, and especially proud of our seniors who get to end their career with a win," Western New England second-year coach Bret Stothart said.

WNE Athletes in the news:

Football: Three 1st teamers among eight football Golden Bears named All-NEFC: linebacker Nathan Fleming headlines list as Defensive Rookie of the Year

Volleyball: Grace Kucharski of Western New England University is the lone Commonwealth Coast Conference representative on the 2012 Capital One Academic All-District Division III Women's Volleyball First Team

Hockey: Eric Sorenson of the Western New England University men's hockey team has been named the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Northeast Goalie of the Week, for games played from Nov. 5-11.

FALL ATHLETICS

Wrap-Up*

Football:
Wins: 6
Losses: 4
Conference Play: 4-3

Men's Soccer:
Wins: 9
Losses: 9
Ties: 3
Conference Play: 4-3-2

Women's Tennis
Wins: 5
Losses: 8
Conference Play: 3-5

Women's Soccer:
Wins: 8
Losses: 11
Ties: 1
Conference Play: 2-7-0

Men's Cross Country:
Placings: 40/50 on 11/10

Men's Golf:
Placings: 18/35 on 10/28

Women's Cross Country:
Placings: 41/51 on 11/10

Women's Field Hockey:
Wins: 6
Losses: 13
Conference Play: 1-9

Women's Volleyball
Wins: 25
Losses: 7
Conference Play: 6-2

*As of 11/13/12

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The Westerner

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Spring Event released to WNE

By: Sarah Wiles

Chiddy Bang and Karmin will headline Spring Event 2013
Images: EMI Music and Karmin

The much-anticipated talent for this year's Spring Event was released to the campus Saturday, February 16, at 11:30 p.m.. This year, Chiddy Bang and Karmin will be performing at Western New England on Friday, April 12 in the Alumni Healthful Living Center.

Senior Hannah Berling, Spring Event Chairperson, described the process to determine this year's talent: she stated, "At the beginning of December, I opened up a meeting to everyone at WNE who wanted to help create a list of acts that we would put a bid into. We work through a third party company who goes between us and the talent; since we are working with larger names, it is easier to work that way. The group of students came together, and we presented a list of talent available in our price range. After about a two hour-long meeting, we had a list of ten acts. We would work with the third party agent and start offering bids, beginning with the first choice. If people declined, we would start working down the list, until someone said yes."

In this case, Spring Event Committee's first choice was the combination of Chiddy Bang followed by Karmin, both acts whose prices, combined, fit perfectly into Spring Event's budget. Berling stated, "Luckily for us, Chiddy Bang accepted our offer

Continued on page 2

Winter Storm Nemo impacts club-hosted events

By: Andrea Melone

The Effect of Winter Starm Nemo on campus
Image: Alexandra Carter

When the blizzard named Nemo hit Western New England February 8, the campus was prepared: the University was closed, classes were cancelled, and Friday night events were postponed.

Although students generally took the advantage of the pending storm to sleep in and relax, some student leaders were forced to re-evaluate their plans for their clubs' activities. The worst of the storm was due to hit at night; holding events in the campus center could have been a liability, and as such, the St. Germain campus center closed as of 10p.m., preventing the clubs from hosting their programs.

Junior Council hoped to hold a traditional Wings Over WNE Friday at 9p.m., during which Wings Over Springfield would provide a wide selection of their chicken. Having the business off-campus come to the school with the meats would have proven even more difficult, and Junior Council quickly postponed.

Luckily, they were able to find another day, Saturday, February 23 at 9p.m. in Rivers Auditorium.

"The most the storm did to us was the reschedule," stated Oliver Gregan, president of Junior Council, who made the executive decision. "We will be sticking with our Mardi Gras Theme we had planned originally. We expect a large crowd. We have ordered 190 lbs of Wings for the event, the most ever. We hope we run out and everyone has a full belly."

Their night will include—besides the wings—board games, video game stations, and a mask decorating section.

The Review of Art and Literature had similar luck with rescheduling their event. The Lonely Heart's Club Open Mic Night, which had been scheduled for Late Night that Friday.

"It really just made us refocus," stated Cassandra Deal, Editor of The Review, "but in the end I think it helped us because it also gave us a chance to re-evaluate, and now our event is also the spring event release, so I say that something good came out of the snow!"

Their anti-Valentine's day program instead took place on February 16 at 11p.m. in the Campus Center. Students were able to sing, dance, perform, and so on for the Open Mic Night.

Despite the University closing again on Saturday, February 9, the Campus Activities Board decided to still present the band Darling Parade as planned. Matt McLaughlin, the CAB Small Concerts Chairperson, hosted his event despite the weather, which had calmed down by 9p.m..

"Around the same time we found out the storm was coming and school would be canceled, we also found out that Darling Parade was already on their way to Massachusetts, driving all the way from Nashville,

Continued on page 2

News

Spring 2013 student media leadership introduced

By: Sarah Wiles

New leaders Rob Carvalho, Spencer Ives, and Frank Maturo
Image: Hannah Berling

Since December, The Westerner, WNEK Radio, and Golden Bear Television have been transitioning their student leadership. All of these leaders had an application process to go through, and all are new to their positions.

Spencer Ives, a junior English Literature major, was selected as the Editor-in-Chief for The Westerner. As someone who had previously written for the paper, and someone who took the initiative to learn about the editing process prior to his Editor-in-Chief application, he was a qualified candidate. Working alongside Ives, and all returning from the fall, are senior Alexandra Carter as Assistant Editor, senior Andrea Melone as Secretary and News Editor, junior Sarah Wiles as Entertainment Editor, senior Hannah Berling as Sports Editor, and senior Chantel Branco as Treasurer and Features Editor.

Ives stated, "One thing that a student leader needs to keep in mind is the matter of how well the organization has functioned in the past. I was lucky enough to inherit a very well-functioning staff, which led me to the understanding that organizations exist as their own separate entity both before and after any individual leadership. Giving an appreciation to how an organization has functioned in the past has been a key role in my leadership."

Look forward to the bi-weekly Thursday distribution of The Westerner.

Frank Maturo, a junior Communications major, was selected as Operations Manager for WNEK Radio. As an enthusiastic personality with the perfect voice for radio, and a student with a wealth of knowledge about media, Maturo is well suited for his new position. Working alongside Maturo are two other new managers: freshman Alexander Blanchette, Program Manager, and freshman Kevin Hepburn, Financial Manager. Unlike the managers previously mentioned, whose terms run December to December, the music directors on the WNEK executive board have terms that run from spring to spring. The music directors currently holding positions are Matthew Amann, Michael Moschella, and Mitch Rushton.

Maturo urges anyone interested in having a WNEK slot to step up. "We have spots open for shows, and encourage anyone who wants to get a show to contact us through our Program Manager, Alex Blanchette, at Alexander.Blanchette@wne.edu" Maturo also commends his team: he states, "Alex, the Program Manager, has done a great job rescheduling the spring semester as new academic schedules clog up DJs' former show times. He also took the lead on our first general meeting, which was a great success. Kevin has been handling our finances, keeping on top of the bills. We have established a solid leadership bond between each other. I really enjoy working with these two fellas."

Make sure you tune into WNEK on 105.1FM or on the smartphone app TuneIn, by searching WNEK-FM. Check them out on their website as well: wnek.wneclubs.org.

Robert Carvalho, a junior Communications major, was selected as Golden Bear Television's General Manager. As someone with much previous GBTV experience and a strong background in media, Carvalho is a great fit. Working alongside Carvalho, and also selected externally, are freshman Jamie Franklin, Production Manager, and freshman Ryan Fleming, News Director. The rest of the positions are selected internally within GBTV, and holding these positions are junior Patrick O'Rourke as Sports Director, sophomore Kevin Babcock as Promotions Manager, freshman Justin Connery as Treasurer, and freshman Johnson Ly as Secretary.

Carvalho is excited about working with his . "Obviously, we are working with a very young team, and I'm excited to have such a strong group lining up to take the reins of the club."

Make sure to tune into 8.2 and enjoy some Golden Bear Television. Check them out at GBTV.wneclubs.org.

Students from WNE are sure to see success from all the new student media leadership this spring.

Spring Event continued from first page

within hours, and then Karmin followed shortly after."

Berling was the only WNE student who knew who the talent would be prior to the release on February 16. She stated, "The reasoning behind not informing anyone else of the act before release was to keep the rumors down to a minimum. Once you tell one person, you run the risk of the information getting out, which takes the excitement out of release night. Rumors did circulate before release, but none of them were the actual act, and seeing how fast those rumors spread makes me happy that no one had the information to spread the real deal. It was an interesting experience being the only student on campus who knew. I would sometimes get asked ten times a day who it would be, but I held it in and never gave into the peer pressure. I knew I was being trusted to keep the information private—I knew who it was before some staff members—and I was not going to break that trust."

Look forward to more information on ticket sales. The Spring Event Committee is working on obtaining an online ticketing system so that students can purchase tickets online with credit cards. Look out for University Posts with information on that, as well as information on how to help out with Spring Event this year. Berling stated, "People can still get involved and should look out for meeting times. If anyone wants to get involved, email me at Hannah.Berling@wne.edu."

Berling expressed her optimism about this year's act. "I think we are bringing the perfect mix of talent to campus this year. Hip-hop fans will enjoy Chiddy Bang. Even though I am not a Hip-hop fan, I really enjoy their music. Their new album, 'Breakfast,' was on Entertainment Weekly's Best Albums of 2012, alongside albums by fun. and Mumford and Sons, so I really believe that this is an up and coming duo that everyone should keep an eye on. Karmin is going to bring a little something for everyone. Fans of Top 40 music already know Brokenhearted and their new song, 'Hello,' which will draw people into the show. They are just so multi-faceted. Everyone knows their cover 'Look at Me Now' from YouTube, but they have released a whole covers album that ranges from raps like 'Look at Me now,' to songs like 'Stuck like Glue' by Sugarland. Having seen them both live and on YouTube, I feel that seeing them live is something everyone should experience."

Nemo continued from first page

Tennessee. We were in contact with the band, and they had every intention on continuing the show," explained McLaughlin. "We wanted to provide an event for those who had braved the storm on campus and were tired of being cooped up in their rooms."

This presented the challenge of ensuring that everything ran smoothly. They loaded the sound equipment Thursday to avoid the snow, and cleared the entrance to Rivers Saturday for the students' safety.

"We ended up having a rather large turnout considering the circumstances. Roughly 100 students showed up for the event and seemed to be very pleased with the performance. The band itself was able to arrive in Springfield on Friday morning, avoiding driving through the worst of the storm. When they got here it was a mad dash to get everything set up in time, considering their lock on their trailer was frozen and we had to use a blow dryer to get it to work. But the band was in a very happy mood and extremely excited to perform. Most of the time they were joking around and having fun. Talking to them afterwards, they were happy to have been able to come and thoroughly enjoyed their experience here at WNE."

While the weather presented difficulties for the clubs that had been planning well in advance of the hectic storm, they all managed to come up with solutions. CAB's concert went well, as did The Review's Open Mic Night, and Junior Council hopes to have a wonderful event as well.

ENTERAINMENT

Wreck-It Ralph Review

By: Gennah Borg

Did you ever wonder what happens when the arcade closes? Walt Disney Pictures presents: Wreck- it Ralph. This animated film takes Disney movie lovers on an exploration through the electronic world after the games are turned off.

Just as the toys from Disney's Toy Story come to life when Andy leaves the room, when Litwak's Arcade closes at night, the various video game characters leave their normal active game roles and are free to travel into other games within the arcade. The movie focuses on the game, Fix-It Felix, Jr., where viewers meet the game's villain, Wreck-It Ralph.

Tired of breaking buildings and being seen as the "bad guy," Wreck-It Ralph takes matters into his own hands, deciding that he will win a medal to prove to his fellow game characters that there is more to him than being labeled a "bad guy."

Wreck-It Ralph Logo
Image: g33kwatch.com

Throughout his journey to prove himself, Wreck-It Ralph alters the operations of the games that he travels into. First stumbling into a first-person shooting game, Hero's Duty, followed by crash landing into Sugar Rush, Wreck-It Ralph quickly learns that he must be careful as he game hops because after all, when broken games are unplugged, their characters are left homeless and the game is no longer playable.

Wreck-It Ralph is the fun-loving story of how putting your mind to something can make you a "good guy" in and of itself under any circumstance. As every good Disney movie should do and does, Wreck-It Ralph teaches audiences that friendships are more important than having to prove ourselves to anyone other than the ones that matter most to us.

Being a Disney lover, I would rate this movie with four stars. I thought the concept of this animated film was as creative as "To infinity and beyond!" Wreck-It Ralph was definitely a good watch.

"I thought the film was phenomenal, one of the best films I have seen in a long time. The night though, would not have been nearly as successful as it was if it were not for the hard work of my committee and fellow E-Board members. They deserve the praise for making the night possible," C.A.B. Films chair, John Connolly stated. Kudos to C.A.B.'s Films committee for making Sunday February 10's movie night a great one.

TV Talk: TV shows provide false sense of reality

By: Hannah Berling

Every week we sit down to indulge in our favorite shows and to submerge ourselves in the lives of our favorite characters. Soon we find ourselves wanting the lives that these characters live, but let's face it: many times that is impossible.

We can all sit and watch some shows and know it is fiction. No, we won't be battling zombies in the near future like on "The Walking Dead," and no, we probably won't be chasing down a serial killer like Kevin Bacon in "The Following." But what about those shows that are supposed to depict the lives of normal people? We should be able to model ourselves after them, right? Not so much.

"The Big Bang Theory" is impeccably written and acted to the T, but it holds a major flaw in the character Penny. Yes, we all want to believe that we can be an independent starving artist like Penny, waiting for her big break in Hollywood, but we could never live the way she does. Until Penny gets her big break in the industry, how does she live like she does? Sheldon and Leonard live across the hall in the same apartment building, both with what we presume to be high paying jobs as physicists, yet they have noted that they couldn't afford to live there alone. That being said, how is a single Cheesecake Factory waitress like Penny able to support herself in that Pasadena apartment? Pasadena apartments rent for easily over $1,000 per month, and not only does Penny pay that alone, the inside is decorated beautifully as well. The fact is, it would be very hard for someone like Penny to afford an apartment alone with just a waitressing job (ever wonder why they always lived with someone else on "Friends"? New York is just as expensive).

The fact is, on too many shows, money doesn't seem to be an object. Kurt and Rachel are sharing a studio apartment in the Bushwick neighborhood of New York City on "Glee," and yes, they have the roommate thing down, but they are both unemployed. Even if Kurt's Vogue internship had been paid, he couldn't support the rent and NYADA tuition. Rachel is simply a student with no foreseeable income as well. I don't think Rachel and Kurt's dads are paying for that apartment either, so how do they stay in it? And how the heck did they furnish it so fast?

It is shows like these where we sit as viewers and watch characters have these wonderful lives in major cities that build up our hopes. The reality is, it isn't that easy. Living is expensive, and living in the city of your dreams may take a lot of time, a lot of saving, and a lot of roommates.

One show that has been able to show just how hard life can be on your own is HBO's "Girls." In the pilot episode, Lena Dunham's character, Hannah, faces this harsh reality. Hannah had relied on her parents' money for the first twenty-four years of her life, and in an instant, her parents pull the plug and cut her off financially. She is left with her unpaid internship and one roommate and has to discover how to make it in the city.

So yes, we get invested in the lives of our favorite characters. Yes, we want to live vicariously through these characters sometimes. What we must realize though, is that these are Hollywood or New York soundstages, not actual apartments, and these are actors paid to play a part, no matter how unrealistic. So next time you sit down with your favorite TV show, just know that you may be getting a false sense of reality.

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Features

Beer Review: Westfield River Brewing Company's Black Squirrel Pale Ale

By: Chris Principato

Westfield River Brewing Company's Black Squirrel Pale Ale is as overrated as the squirrels it is named for. Though I will never deny that black squirrels are interesting, they are still glorified rats that you would not like in your house. Black Squirrel Pale Ale lacks the simplest complexities found in craft or "Lax Bro" college beer. With little to the approach and absolutely nothing to the finish I am considering using the rest of my case to water my plants or brush my teeth.

Now that you have heard all of the good things I have to say about this pale ale, I guess it is now time for the actual review. Upon the approach, Black Squirrel smells like… well… beer. There is not much to say about the complexities of the approach because there simply are none. When the first sip is taken, a simple hops flavor comes through but is quickly washed away by a watery finish. Due to this finish, the beer is smooth, but does not leave the drinker with any motivation beyond thirst for a second sip. For its lack of the most basic flavor and watery finish I am giving Westfield River Brewing Company's Black Squirrel Pale Ale one out of five beers.

Westfield River Brewing Company is located in Westfield, Massachusetts, and was started in 2012. Though overall this review is negative in nature, Westfield also brews five other beers that include an IPA and chocolate stout which are a completely different experience for the drinker. Black Squirrel Pale Ale is Westfield's first brew and I chalk up this brew to beginner's ignorance. With time Westfield River's brews will expand and their recipes and brewing processes will improve beyond Black Squirrel. Westfield River Brewing Company offers $10 tours on Friday and Saturday. I highly recommend taking the drive to Westfield to experience this newcomer to the micro brewing community. Please remember to enjoy Westfield's brews responsibly and to take time to enjoy the local fare.

Westfield River Brewing Company's Black Squirrel Pale Ale

Image: Chris Principato

1/5 Beers

Note: All students consuming alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

Creative Corner: An original piece written by a WNE student

By: Robert L. Gilchrist

The Westerner is incorporating an original story in segments. This is a continuation of the story included in last semester's issues. Look for part 7 in the next issue of the Westerner.

Jason and the Golden Fleece: Part 6

The office of Senator Aeetes sits in a private suite in the Xenian Hotel, right in the heart of downtown Olympia. Normally the offices would be within the chambers of city hall, but after Aeetes was reelected, he bought out the suite and moved his work in. Not content with the security in the building, he also brought together the best bodyguards to watch the building for anything that could threaten his job.

The night had started just like any other, with half a dozen members of "Teeth of a Dragon" taking their posts in the lobby of the hotel after normal business hours had ended. Standing stoically and silently as the shadows moved across the floor of the building from the passing cars, no one made any sound.

Just then, the doors rolled open and a small toy car wheeled in. The guards turned to see what it was, but before they could react in any manner, the toy detonated.

The resulting explosion tore the lobby to pieces, knocking the guards back as if they were ragdolls. When the dust settled and the flames began to die down, Jason strode in. Armed with sword, bow, and daggers, he looked out at the destruction he had caused. Before he could continue on though, the remaining members of "Teeth of a Dragon" came pouring into the ruins of the lobby, armed and ready to protect their boss, the senator. Jason simply smiled and reached for his arrows.

Sleepless Dragon descended the stairs, annoyed at the prospect of having to clean up another mess the incompetent "disciples" who he had trained had made now. As the elevator doors opened though, he saw the madness that awaited him had not been exaggerated by the guards on the floor who had radioed up to him for backup.

As far as he could tell, not one of his men had survived the wrath of the vigilante who now stood in the center of the demolished lobby, hunched over his sword and panting heavily, fueled by adrenaline and hatred.

"So, the mysterious Jason that everyone's been so hung up on," said Sleepless Dragon. "I don't know what everyone's getting their shorts in a knot for. You don't seem that tough."

Jason then rose to his full height and tossed his sword away. He shook himself off and wiped away the blood that had smeared onto his face.

"Ooh, big tough guy thinking he can take me on with his bare fists?" taunted Sleepless Dragon. He shook out his arms and walked into the carnage towards Jason.

Jason nonchalantly slid the vial Medea had given him out of his belt and held it loosely in his hand. "I don't need anything to beat you."

Just then, Sleepless Dragon lunged at Jason. He barely had time to react before Sleepless Dragon was on top of him, his monstrous shadow looming over Jason…

Aeetes had been informed by his personal bodyguard, Sleepless Dragon, that there was something going on down in the lobby. He wasn't sure if it was anything, but he told Aeetes to seal the office down while he was gone. That had been half an hour ago.

For a brief time Aeetes felt the very building shake, seeing the bourbon in his glass shake like in corny blockbusters. But this was real. Someone had come for him, someone looking to do him harm. He grabbed the revolver he kept in his safe for just this kind of situation.

Suddenly the doors splintered open and Jason strode in, bloody and tattered from his brawl with Sleepless Dragon. Having lasted almost twenty minutes and traversing seven floors of the hotel, Jason finally managed to defeat his foe.

"Did Kronos send you?" screamed Aeetes as Jason walked over to him. "Tell him the deal is still being finalized. It'll be done within the week!"

Jason grabbed the gun from Aeetes and slammed it against his leg, knocking Aeetes to the floor. "You killed them," Jason snarled. "Why did you have them killed?"

Aeetes paused for a moment, and then uttered, "It's you. I was wondering when you'd show up."

"Not soon enough," said Jason as he kicked Aeetes down to the floor. He then strode over to the senator's desk and ripped the drawers apart, looking for his prize he had fought so hard to achieve. Soon enough he found the Golden Fleece, and marveled at its brilliance. He then tucked it into the inner lining of his jacket and turned to face down Aeetes.

"Now, you're coming with me," said Jason. While Aeetes struggled back to standing position, Jason slid the drive Medea had given him into the computer.

"You think…hehe… you think I killed them? Killed your precious family?" chuckled Aeetes as he looked into Jason's eyes. "Please, if you think that… then you don't know anything. I just figured I'd let you know that you were wrong before it all ends for you."

"I think you have me confused with yourself, senator," said Jason. "I'm not the one whose world is about to come crashing down on him."

Continued on page 5

Features

Jason continued from fourth page

"That's what you think. But you see, one of the added perks of being a senator of this place, aside from the boatloads of cash and all the time off doing absolutely nothing, is that in all my places of work…I have a panic button installed."

Just then, a team of police swarmed in, led by Captain Pelias and flanked by a dozen heroes. Pelias brandished his gun right at Jason, with Theseus brandishing his trident, ready to launch it directly into Jason's chest.

"End of the line freak," said Theseus.

"Jason, you are hereby under arrest by the order of the Olympia Police De…"

Before Pelias could finish his sentence, Jason made for the window.

The office of Senator Aeetes resides on the top floor of the Xenian Hotel, with forty-five floors of guest space beneath them. And Jason figured this out as he crashed through the window with bullets whizzing past him and as he began to feel gravity pulling him down…

To Be Continued…

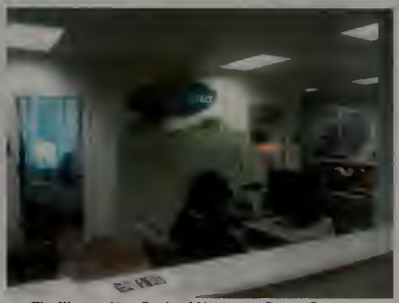
Internships give look into the future

By: Alissa Doiron

Internships are the best way for students to get experience and gain knowledge in a particular field of interest. Western New England works with over 1,500 businesses and organizations that offer brilliant internships for both undergraduate and graduate students. "If we can't find exactly what you're looking for," Andrea St. James says, from the Career Center, "then we will try as hard as we can to find something as close to your preference as possible."

Participating students must have a G.P.A. of 2.5 or better, and must be taking 3 credits at the University as a minimum. Internships also account for LBC opportunities, or class credits when working closely with a professor. Some internships can even be paid!

These learning experiences provide "skills, experiences, and develops communication abilities," St. James states, in expressing the importance that internships have on every student. St. James goes on, "Professional organizations are looking for applicants that have an education, experience within the field, and insight in the potential career." They also teach students to learn quickly, act accurately, and pay attention to specific detail. "Internships are ways to express your knowledge in the classroom to real-life scenarios," states St. James. "Not only will these experiences help acquire experience in the present, but the application process, resume, and interviews that are sometimes required will help you for your real job."



The Western New England University Carrer Center
Image: Spencer Ives

I was honored to intern at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). The MCAD office is located in downtown Worcester, and there was never a dull moment. This was an extremely interesting and pleasant experience because I was able to independently decide if a case was strong enough to hold in court. The decision was hard at times because I would write an investigative disposition that outlined my finding for whether ot not the complainants can continue to get the justice they believed they deserved.

I want to become a lawyer in the future, so this experience was a complete eye-opener to what I could possibly do every day for the rest of my life. I learned so much through the hands-on activities and people assisting me each step of the way. I had the opportunity to hear about lawyers' experiences and the obstacles they overcame to get to where they are today. I was able to get my name in the networking systems, which is one of the main points to an internship. I learned tips to improve my writing skills, and how to be profesional in stressful situations.

If by chance you don't get an internship that you find interesting because all you do is file papers, use your time wisely. "Look through the papers and learn about their approaches to certain subjects and situations. You can also be social and ask questions to find out all you possibly can from your experience," St. James says.

Internships are good ways to get involved and gain interesting and insightful experiences to add to your resume. They can also narrow what you do or do not want to pursue in a future job.

Fire safety in food preparation

By: Public Safety

Fire safety is a serious business. It could save your life. You should never leave your food while cooking. Common distractions while cooking are computers, watching TV, falling asleep, cell phones, bathroom breaks, and friends and neighbors. While you were away your food continues to cook, it then burns setting off the fire alarm, and it overheats and ignites nearby items. You risk danger to yourself and others. What can we do to prevent kitchen fires? Staying by your food while it is cooking; you will not go hungry. It will also prevent unwanted alarms. Microwaves are just as bad. Ask yourself, how many times did you burn that popcorn? What can we do to prevent microwave fires? Following the preparation instructions on the items being cooked will help. Paying attention to the cooking time and do not leave the microwave.

Tips on how to prevent and reduce cooking fires:

- Stay by your food while cooking.
- Do not panic and focus on what you are doing.
- Keep cooking areas clean.
- Turn pot handles inward.
- Never use a wet oven mitt.
- Do not wear lose clothing.
- Remove food from the microwave carefully.

In case of a cooking fire:

- If the fire is small turn off burner and place a lid on the pot or pan. Do not lift lid until cooled.
- Do not use flour, sugar, or other granular material. ect.
- If the fire is large, don't fight it. Leave area and pull the fire alarm.
- Use an ABC fire extinguisher.
- NEVER throw water on grease fires.

C.A.B's Diversity and Alternative Entertainment Committee presents: slam poet, Natasha T. Miller

Natasha T. Miller is a writer, performance poet, author, publisher dedicated activist, producer, actress, and an aspiring motivational speaker from Detroit, Michigan. Natasha incorporates issues and topics that are relevant and appealing to our generation into her work. She has amazed audiences across the country at universities, festivals, and numerous venues including slams and shows preformed at the famous Nuyorican Poets Café in New York, the Vancouver and the Seattle Poetry Slam, as well as at Chicago's Green Mill. Natasha T. Miller is the former ranking number five female slam poet in the world! Come join C.A.B's Diversity and Alternative Entertainment committee for a night of poetry in The Rock Café at 8:00PM on Thursday February 28, 2013! Come get your slam on!

Features

Housing verification

By: Steph Elizondo

Attention all returning students looking for housing next year! The Residence Hall Association would like to remind you that your $500 Housing Verification Payment is due by March 6, 2013!

If you have not already done so, you can log on now to your Connect2U account on the Western New England University website. There, under the "Billing" tab, you will find where to "Make a Deposit." Check the box for "Returning Student Housing Confirmation Fee: $500," fill in your necessary credit card or electronic check information, and you are all set for housing in the upcoming academic year!

You can also pay by credit offline. If you have a credit card on your account and would like to use that to pay your Housing Verification payment, please contact Student Administrative Services directly at (413)-796 –2080. You must authorize that the credit be utilized for your housing verification payment through Student Administrative Services.

If you would rather not pay online or by credit, you can pay by check. Just forward payment to:

Student Administrative Services
Western New England University
1215 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01119

Include your name, student ID number, and specify that it is a housing verification payment. Remember: checks are not sent to the office of residence life! Additionally, it is recommended that you contact Western New England to guarantee that your payment has been received.

If you have any concerns about submitting your housing verification payment, due to financial hardship or otherwise, please contact the Office of Residence Life at (413)-782-1317 immediately. If you qualify for a reduced payment, your accommodation must be arranged and reduced payment submitted by the March 6, 2013 deadline.

In Memoriam

On Sunday, February 17, George Papadoliopoulos, a student of the College of Engineering, tragically passed away. This is a terrrible loss for all of our community. The staff of the Westerner send out our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

On January 19, University Police responded to several alcohol related medical emergencies. One least one person was sent to the hospital for treatment. In a separate incident, several students arrived at University Police station assisting their friend who had consumed alcohol and several different medications. The patient was transported by ambulance to the hospital.

On January 22, University Police responded to a reported fight in progress at Franklin Hall. Officers were able to identify the combatants as "friends." Officers learned that one of the men had unauthorized access to the others social media page and posted an inappropriate comment. When confronted, a fist fight soon broke out; both men suffered minor injuries and refused treatment. Several violations of the student conduct code were listed in the police report which was forwarded to Student Affairs for review.

On January 31, University Police were called to investigate a man that was attempting to sell back stolen books to the bookstore. The man left the area before police arrived; however, the book store manager was able to tentatively identify the man. Several other area bookstores have reported similar incidents. The University Police are searching for the man who is wanted for questioning.

On February 8, University Police responded to a fire alarm in Gateway Village. They determined the alarm was cause by a thick haze of smoke, believed to be burnt marijuana. Officers checked the apartment and determined there was no threat of fire. No one was located at the address. Officers did notice a light colored SUV leaving the area as they arrived. The alarm system was reset and residents returned to their apartments.

On February 11, University Police responded to a fire alarm for the third floor Center for Sciences and Pharmacy (CSP). Units were dispatched to investigate. Working with faculty and the Springfield Fire Department they were able to determine that an Autoclave Sterilizer machine was recently used. The machine uses steam to sterilize lab equipment. The steam from the machine activated the alarm when it was opened causing a false fire alarm. The fire system was reset. There were no injuries or fire damage reported as a result of this false alarm.

Reminder, please make sure that your E2 campus account is active. Also, make sure that you have checked the box to receive WNE Weather Alerts regarding cancelations and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSFSR.pdf

Opinion

Don't dismiss cruising

By: Hannah Berling

The Carnival Dream in port in 2010.
Image: Hannah Berling

As news flowed in about the horrific conditions upon the Carnival Triumph last week, I heard many people saying they would never cruise because of the incident. As someone who has cruised multiple times with my family, including my own voyage on the Carnival Triumph, I do not believe that this event should deter people from the vacation of a lifetime.

I have sailed nothing but Carnival with my family, and have nothing but positive experiences with the cruise line. I am by no means saying that what the people aboard the Triumph experienced wasn't traumatizing, I am simply saying that one case of a cruise gone wrong should not hurt the cruise industry in the way it probably will.

The fact is, the only times that the cruise industry enters the media is when they launch a new ship, or when something goes wrong. Last year, we had the news of the Costa Concordia striking land and sinking in the Mediterranean, and this year we had the Triumph's engine room fire leading to loss of propulsion, plumbing, and power. While these are major issues that should be dealt with and should lead to the inspection of other ships to prevent further issues, they are not a death sentence to the cruise industry.

Stories of planes being stuck on the runway, not being able to taxi in, and not being able to fly out for over 24 hours do not lead to the demise of the airplane industry. Amusement park mishaps do not keep roller coaster enthusiasts out of those parks. So why now, do we have this belief that a slip up by Carnival will halt the cruising industry?

The fact is, cruising is one of the best (and most affordable) vacations around. In my time with Carnival, I have never experienced any major problems and any minor issues were handled perfectly by the crew. Three years ago while I was sailing on the Carnival Dream, a fight occurred one night in the dance club. For the safety of the rest of us Dream passengers, when we reached Costa Maya the next day, everyone involved was promptly escorted off the ship and told to find a new way home.

I heard many people say that Carnival should have done more for the people of the Triumph during the fiasco it underwent. While I agree that no one should ever have to go that long on a confined boat with no plumbing or air conditioning, it is hard to know what else Carnival staff could have done. Cruises are booked months in advance, leaving Carnival with no empty ship that could have reached the Triumph in time to transfer passengers, and adding Triumph passengers to another full Carnival ship would have only caused a set of safety issues for that boat. In my experience with Carnival staff, they are nothing but hospitable in any situation, and I cannot imagine them doing anything but the best they could to try to make people as comfortable as possible.

This has been a PR nightmare for Carnival, but I believe that the passengers of the Triumph have been given proper compensation: free trips home from the docking point in Mobile, Alabama, a full refund on their cruise, all on-board expenses paid in full, and a free future cruise. I'm a sure a free cruise is the last thing some of those guests want, but that is a gracious gift for Carnival to dole out.

My major point is that there are thousands of cruises sailing every year, and issues such as the Triumph fiasco happen once in a blue moon. A cruise vacation is something unforgettable. Up to a week or more on a floating city, stopping in numerous tropical destinations as you go, delicious food, and some of the happiest staff you will ever meet. I understand that for some people, this story of sewage leaks and lack of air conditioning is a turn off, but honestly, you don't stop driving because one person got in a car accident one time.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: westerner@wneclubs.org

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are Thursdays @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 105

Interested in sports?

Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears? Have a knack for journalism or writing in general? The Westerner would love to have you!

We are looking for any students who have an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write one WNE sports related article per issue.

If you are interested, please contact us at westerner@wneclubs.org or join us at one of our meetings held every other Thursday at 8:00pm in Rivers 105.

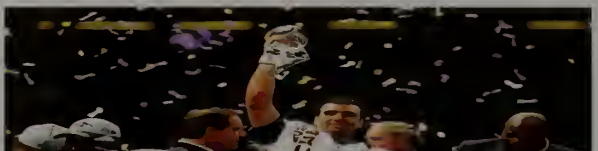
Western New England University
Home of the Golden Bears!

Good luck to all winter athletic teams!

Sports

Super Bowl XLVII is one to remember for WNE students

By: Michael Masciadrelli



Joe Flacco celebrates his Super Bowl win and being named MVP
Image: Christian Petersen/Getty Images

The 47th Super Bowl between the Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers provided an intriguing clash of two teams coached by two brothers, John Harbaugh for Baltimore and Jim Harbaugh for San Francisco. At Western New England University, there were many Patriots and Giants fans watching the game in support of the 49ers.

Many students on campus decided to watch it in their respective residence halls or apartment complexes, but the premise was all the same: watch football, eat a lot of good food, and enjoy one another's company. At Gateway Village across campus, I was amongst a mixed group of football fans. At least six were Patriots fans, three were Giants fans, and on the couch sat one Philadelphia Eagles fan. Sophomore Political science major Mark Martinez, the Eagles fan, was alone in support of the Baltimore Ravens.

"I want the Ravens to win because I want to see Ray Lewis go out on top," said Martinez. "Ray Lewis is the greatest linebacker of all-time and a great representative of the NFL. Go Baltimore!"

After the Ravens eliminated the Patriots two weeks ago in the AFC Championship, Patriots fans like Sophomore Joa Escobar felt it was an easy choice siding with the 49ers.

"I don't want to see the Ravens win it after they beat my Pats," said Escobar, "The Niners are also more of a fun team to watch and support."

Two completely different halves and a bizarre stop of play shortly after halftime made Super Bowl XLVII one of the strangest in years.

The first half was dominated by the Baltimore Ravens. Offensively, Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco took matters into his own hands, picking apart the San Francisco secondary. Flacco delivered a perfect pass to Anquan Boldin for the first touchdown of the game in the first quarter. Mark cheered in excitement as the Ravens went up by seven. At the end of the quarter, Martinez was smiling over a Ravens 7-3 lead.

In the second quarter, Flacco continued in fine rhythm in the passing game. However, thanks to a forced fumble from Ravens linebacker, Courtney Upshaw, the Ravens began their first drive of the second quarter in great field position. Flacco carried them the rest of the way, hooking up with tight end Dennis Pitta for a 1 yard touchdown pass. Once again, Martinez roared in celebration, while the others sat unimpressed. 14-3 Ravens.

Later in the second quarter, Joe Flacco would show his playoff magic, completing a 56 yard pass to Jacoby Jones for a touchdown. The 49ers managed a field goal before break. At the half, Martinez couldn't be happier with the 21-6 lead.

"Only 30 minutes away from Ray getting his ring!" said Martinez.

Everyone in the room, despite who they were rooting for, could appreciate a fantastic halftime performance from Beyoncé Knowles. Everyone enjoyed sharing tweets with each other about her performance. Social media provided a connection between fans, no matter where they were watching.

Some in the room, like sophomores Sean Hebert and Alexandria Martinez, spent part of their time finishing their homework. Sean spent time moving his hands to correct gestures for his sign language class, while Alexandria copied down notes of the various commercials for her marketing class. Multi-tasking became a trend throughout the game, whether it was for homework, or simply on a cell phone.

The start of the second half began with an electric kickoff return by Jacoby Jones. Jones sped through the 49ers special teams and ran 108 yards for the touchdown, tying the all-time record for most yards on a kickoff return. All the momentum was with the Ravens at this point. Something had to change. And in a few minutes, it did.

The Superdome underwent a sudden power outage. Almost half the stadium turned dark, causing players, coaches, and fans to look around in confusion. Everyone watching was asking each other the same question,

"Wait what's going on? Did the power really just go out?"

Players on both sides spent the delay stretching while both head coaches were searching for answers from the referees. Many commentators felt the thirty-four minute delay could result in a momentum shift, favoring the 49ers. The Ravens were one half away from being crowned champions after building an impressive 28-6 lead. When play was finally cleared and the lights came back, so did the 49ers.

In a matter of minutes, 49ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, caught fire, delivering consistent completions across the field. The Ravens looked a little rattled after the delay, and the 49ers took full advantage. Kaepernick's 31 yard strike to wide receiver Michael Crabtree after banging off two defenders, cut the lead to 28-13. On their next possession, Kaepernick carried the 49ers offense downfield and inside the goaline. 49ers running back Frank Gore finished off the drive, taking the handoff into the endzone for the score, 28-20 Ravens.

The team down 22 points in the third quarter had now responded with 14 unanswered points of their own in a matter of about six minutes. More high fives were made between the Patriots and Giants fans and for the first time there was a surplus of cheers. Martinez sat silently in disbelief at what he was witnessing. Sophomore business major and Giants fan, Brian Ballo, shouted in excitement to another Patriot's fan after Gore's touchdown.

"This is one time where we can both agree on football! And probably the only time," said Ballo.

A few minutes later, the 49ers defense responded. Flacco handed the ball off to running back Ray Rice and after trying to break a tackle, the 49ers defender, Tarell Brown, stripped the ball loose and fell on top of it. 49ers Football. After a field goal from kicker David Akers, it was 28-23 Ravens.

Martinez was not pleased. Luckily, the Ravens offense responded with a few key third down conversions on their next drive and converted a field goal to push their lead back to eight.

However, the 49ers were still riding their momentum from the blackout and the Ravens couldn't find an answer to Kaepernick's playcalling. On the Ravens' 15 yard line, Kaepernick dropped back, didn't see any open receivers, so he took it himself on a 15 yard sprint for a touchdown. 31-29 Ravens; a round of applause for the 49ers supporters. The Ravens stepped up on the two point conversion attempt, forcing an incomplete pass, by bringing the blitz on Kaepernick.

Next, it was Flacco's turn. The poised Joe Flacco calmly took the ball in his hands on the next possession, making some clutch throws, one specifically to the back shoulder of Boldin on third down and inches, near midfield to keep the drive alive. This would set up another field goal giving the Ravens a 34-29 advantage.

Two explosive plays followed by the 49ers, first a long completion to Crabtree and then a rush by Gore helping the 49ers to the 5 yard line. The clock ticked till it reached the two minute warning. After an incomplete pass from Kaepernick, it set up fourth down. Viewers around the room all said the same thing,

"Here's the game, it all comes down to this."

Kaepernick received the snap and threw a lob up to Crabtree in the corner of the end zone. As the ball was up in the air, not a sound was made inside the room. The ball would land just out of the receivers' reach. Jim Harbaugh screamed in anger, holding his fist, pleading for a holding penalty on the Ravens defender. Mark cheered in excitement while the rest shook their heads in disappointment. No flags were on the field and allowed the Ravens to run out the clock.

Ravens 34, 49ers 31. The Baltimore Ravens are Super Bowl XLVII Champions. John beats Jim. Ray Lewis goes out on top. Joe Flacco was handed Super Bowl MVP. Mark, Ravens fans, and supporters worldwide can let out a sigh of relief and celebrate. But for all of us, we move on with our respective lives whether it's at college or with our job, after an unforgettable night of football.

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Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Direct deposit to be implemented

By: Kaylene Hersey

If you have on on compus job, be sure to check in with SAS
Imoge:http: www.kucu.org

Two weeks ago, a notice went out to all students, announcing that Student Payroll will be making the use of direct deposit available next semester. What this means is no more carrying around wads of cash and most importantly, no more long lines outside of SAS. Direct deposit will allow all students who have jobs on campus to receive their paycheck directly into their bank accounts, rather than collecting them at SAS and cashing them there. The money will be received in their account the day of payroll and it does not matter if the student is present on campus. The money can be used immediately.

"I am happy with the fact that we will have direct deposit because personally, I have three jobs, so right now when I get a paycheck, it is really easy to cash it and spend the money, rather than saving it," said senior Jess Koontz.

Not only will students be able to skip the lines on Friday, they will more likely save their money, and with direct deposit, students can split their paycheck to go into multiple accounts. Students can split their checks

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S.M.A.R.T. presents "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit"

By: Sarah Wiles

SMART members gother for o photo
Imoge: Amy Masi

On Monday, November 26, S.M.A.R.T. (Sexual Misconduct Advocate Response Team) put on a program, where several students viewed "Law and Order: Special Victims Unit: Consent." In addition to viewing the television show and enjoying a nacho bar, students in the club posed questions to the audience about issues within the episode.

This episode of SVU involves a female college student whose drink was violated with GHB, a date rape drug, while drinking with friends. While under the influence, two men engage in sexual intercourse with her. Since the victim has no memory of the evening, one of the challenges is for the detectives to prove that the accused rapists were taking advantage of the intoxicated woman, with knowledge of her state of mind.

While watching the episode, club members would pause it and raise questions, such as, "How do you feel about the victim at this point, after hearing rumors about her promiscuity?" as well as, "Is it possible that the victim had consensual sex with either rapist?" Each question caused the audience to think in depth about the issues within the episode.

S.M.A.R.T.'s president, Amy Masi, states, "It is important to remember that if a person is intoxicated or under the influence, they are not legally able to give consent to sex. If legal consent is not given, it is rape." In this episode, the victim was not able to give consent, so even if she did, or even if actions before the evening lead either rapist to believe their advances were welcome, the sex is still considered rape.

S.M.A.R.T. chose this television series and specific episode with intent. Masi states, "We feel that 'Law and Order: SVU' re-

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News

Perrone takes Golden Voice crown second year in a row

By: Hannah Berling

Perrone performs for the win
Image: Jenny Woo

Kristine Perrone took the crown of Golden Voice First Place at GBTV's second annual singing competition after belting out Alicia Keys' Girl on Fire in front of a crowd of roughly 180 students.

"I feel completely honored to be named the Golden Voice Champion for the second year in a row. My friend Mike Salva picked the song out for me. He texted me one day a couple months ago and said 'listen to Girl on Fire by Alicia Keys. You need to sing that.' So I listened to it and fell in love! It was a great song for my vocal range and I feel like I was really able to connect with it emotionally," Perrone stated after her win.

The competition featured performances by ten students singing songs ranging from pop to country to Broadway standards. Second place winner Sarah Wiles, who performed Mandy Moore's "Only Hope," and Sarah Babski's third place finish singing "On My Own" from Les Miserables also joined Perrone in the winner's circle. There was also a fan favorite award, a title that went to Matt Johnston.

The event was an upgrade for GBTV, who hosted the finale as a Late Night in the Rock last year.

"I don't think the event could have gone any smoother. The contestants had a blast, the judges were very impressed, and the audience feedback was nothing but positive," stated Leighann Camarero, the GBTV producer of the event.

The judges that Camarero speaks of included Dean of Student Activities Maureen Keizer, Dean of Students Jeanne Hart-Steffes, and English Professor Ted Wesp. After each performance, the judges gave their opinions on the performances, and at the end of the evening chose the winners.

The program was able to show the wide variety of musical talent that students have on campus, and the heavy competition made the winners particularly grateful.

"I was so surprised and honored to win second place. There were so many other talented people and knowing I placed in the top three was truly an honor," second place winner Sarah Wiles stated.

"There was some great competition this year and I want to congratulate all the other participants for their amazing performances as well!" Perrone stated.

GBTV was able to bring in many elements to the event that are unique to this program, including a video screen with a live stream of the event that gave the show a realistic concert feel, a Twitter hashtag that allowed friends of contestants to have their tweets shown in front of everyone, and a multi-camera shoot that will allow the event to be played on the campus TV station for months to come.

"The best part of the event for me was my role as producer during the show. Watching my three months of planning come to life and seeing the joy on people's faces that this provided whether it was through hearing the contestants sing or people getting a glimpse at what it would be like behind the scenes at a live TV competition show," Camarero stated.

Overall, the event provided students involved the chance to let their talents be heard, and the audience a chance to relax and enjoy the songs performed by friends.

Two-time winner Krissy Perrone enjoyed the evening so much, she hopes to return next year even after she graduates.

"It was a great program and I hope everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves! Hopefully I'll be able to come back next year as an alum and support everyone!"

Direct deposit cont. from first page.

up into as many as six different accounts as an easier way to save money.

"Now that I am trying to build credit, I have credit cards, and so knowing I have money in my account will help me make sure I pay all of my bills on time," said Koontz.

Direct deposit also allows students who do not have branches for their banks in the Springfield area to deposit money into their account, rather than carrying around cash.

"I am part of a bank that is not local, and so direct deposit is so much easier than looking for a new bank," said Koontz.

Students interested in direct deposit should visit the Student Payroll Office on the bottom floor of Deliso Hall. The office of Student Payroll has put aside specific hours to come to fill out forms for direct deposit. These hours are 10:00-12:00 noon on December 12 and 2:00-4:00pm on December 13. More time slots will be posted for next semester.

When coming to fill out the forms, students should talk to the head of Student Payroll, Denise Kareta. In order to sign up for direct deposit, students must bring either a voided unused check, a photocopy of an unused check, or a bank statement. Deposit slips will not be accepted.

For more questions, students should either call Denise Kareta at 413-782-1762 or email her at dkareta@wne.edu.

SVU night cont. from first page.

ally helps to depict the effects and types of sexual assault cases that can occur. Also, we know that it is accurate and a well-liked show that people can relate to and enjoy. We chose this episode because it covers a rape case that occurs on a college campus that has similar judicial processes as our campus. We want students to know that there is a place for them to go on this campus if they are ever to experience sexual assault. We feel that this episode is the best depiction of typical college life and what can result from various actions."

There are several options for victims of sexual assault on the Western New England campus. They can either report it to the Springfield police and go through criminal court, or they can report to Public Safety and go through our school's judicial process. Since Western New England Public Safety cannot incarcerate, the most severe action our university can take is expelling someone; however, the process will not take nearly as long as it would in criminal court. The victim can choose both routes as well. Since both have limitations and advantages, it is best for victims of sexual assault to consider their options, but, most importantly, get help.

"Don't be afraid to speak up," Masi states. "The S.M.A.R.T. team is here to help in any way that we can. Sexual assault is a serious offense that can have lasting effects on the victim. Sometimes these effects don't take place right away. Just remember that there are so many people on this campus that are willing to help."

Masi also offers advice to Western New England students: "Remember that sexual assault is never the victim's fault. No one ever asks to be assaulted."

The audience at this program felt very informed afterward. Rachel Savitt, a junior psychology major within the elementary education program, states, "I thought the program was informative, and it made me aware of some of the resources we have on campus. It also made me think about the legality involving sexual assault."

If you or anyone you know seeks relief from sexual assault, please call (413)575-7194 to speak with a trained S.M.A.R.T. member.

News & Enterainment

ODK collects for a cause

By: Andrea Melone

Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society, collaborated with SWAT (Social Workers Advocating Together) and Tau Beta Pi - the engineering honor society - to collect donations for the Gray House from November 26 to December 9 with a table in the campus center and boxes around campus.

Warm Up Your Day with ODK is a program intended to promote donation to give to those who need it. The three organizations accepted a variety of warm apparel, including everything from hats, scarves, gloves, pajamas, blankets, sweaters, sweatpants, sweatshirts, pants, jackets, coats, and were able to gather several of these items.

Different members of the clubs sat at a table in the mall area of the campus center between 12:00-2:00pm, as well as collection boxes in Emerson and Sleith. All the donations will go to the kids at the Gray House who likely do not have such common clothes for the cold season as scarves or gloves.

The Gray House is a local human service agency in Springfield, MA, known for its education and service programs. They tutor adults in the Community Education Support Program for reading, writing, and math tutoring, GED preparation, English as a Second Language and citizenship preparation, and children in the Kids' Club, an after school and summer program for kids ages seven to eleven. Also, they provide a food pantry for those in need, and a thrift store featuring free and inexpensive clothes and household items.

Warm Up Your Day has been a consistent ODK program for the past several years. The group's advisor, engineering professor Michael Rust, noted how it has gone in the past: "We're really surprised at the level of donations we're able to collect.

"Warm Up Your Day has been doing very well!" stated Madeline Boushie, ODK's president. "Each year our collection surpasses the previous year and it looks like we'll be beating last year's donation! Our goal for this year is to fill five bags with clothing and I believe we're at around four right now."

In previous years, ODK has also had programs such as a massage fundraiser at the end of a semester and a leadership seminar during which WNE alumni spoke about how their leadership experience impacted their lives outside of school.

Members in ODK are recognized for excellence in scholarship, creative or performing arts campus/community service, social/religious activities, campus government, journalism/speech, mass media, or athletics. Rust commented on how ODK represents "people from all aspects of the campus leadership."

"This year, we're looking to be more active on campus. Unfortunately, not all students know of ODK so we are currently trying to get the name out and give back to the community. We have a really strong circle this year and I'm really excited for the great programming ideas we have for the spring semester!" said Boushie.

The boxes for donations will still be around until December 9, so please remember to warm up others' days.

TV Talk: Holiday gift guide for the TV junkie

By: Hannah Berling

Do you have a TV junkie in your list of people to buy a holiday gift for? Fear not! There are plenty of gifts available this year that will put a smile on the face of that TV addicted loved one. From clothing, to novelties, to DVDs and CDs, here are a few ideas for that perfect television-themed gift.

Clothing

Clothing is one of the easiest places to find gifts for lovers of almost any television show. Do you have a Big Bang Theory enthusiast in your life? There is a wide range of clothing from the show available: T-Shirts ranging from "Bazinga" to the Soft Kitty song, and--my personal favorite--Soft Kitty slippers available on Amazon, along with a long line of Soft Kitty apparel. For the Doctor Who lover on your list, Hot Topic has a wide array of apparel from the show, including the Tardis dress for $26.50. The NBC Universal shop provides t-shirt choices for many of their shows, new and old, for an average price of $26.00 each. The same can be said of the shops on cbs.com, abc.com, and fox.com. My personal favorite item: If you have a little one on your list that you want to start early on pop-culture love, I recommend the Glee Warbler uniform onesie off the fox.com shop.

Novelty Items

Along with clothing, there are those iconic novelty items that look like they have been taken straight off the set of your favorite show and placed directly under your tree. Coffee cups are a popular TV show prop, and you can own your favorites. NBC Universal has the Central Perk mug from Friends available for $10.99, and the Fox shop has the ceramic replica of the Lima Bean mug from Glee for $24.95. Other novelty items include the Office's "Dundie Award" available for $14.00 and the Revenge "infinity box" for $24.99.

DVDs

This is the perfect time of year to scour Amazon.com or Bestbuy.com for amazing deals on DVDs of your favorite television shows. Amazon has been running sales since Thanksgiving day, and other sites and stores will have these box sets or individual seasons on sale up until Christmas Day.

In general, remember that no matter what show the TV junkie in your life is obsessed with, there is a drink recipe out there for them. Many daytime talk shows and food shows have books, such as The Chew cookbook, and sites such as Cafepress.com or thinkgeek.com provide many unique items not available anywhere else.

The Review of Art and Literature here at Western New England University is looking for submissions of student and faculty visual art and writing. If interested, please send submissions to wnereview@gmail.com by January 21, 2013. With each submission email, please include the piece, artist's name, title, year, and major.

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FEATURES

Goats and llamas and pigs, oh my!

By: Andrea Melone

I could have written a news article reflecting on the C.A.R.E. (Community Action Rewards Everyone) trip to the Heifer International Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts, stating the facts of the trip as it was, without opinion. However, my experience was just too exciting to write a piece that didn't reflect how much I personally enjoyed the field trip.

C.A.R.E. opened the trip up to the campus, inviting students to join us in a visit to the Overlook Farm, on an especially sunny day, perfect for grazing in fields, touring, and exploring.

Heifer International is an organization that raises animals to give to people around the world who are stuck in a poverty rut and need all the help they can get; "Heifer works with communities to end hunger and poverty, and to care for the earth" is their mission statement. They accept donations from generous contributors who can literally buy an animal. For $10, you can buy a share of an animal, for varied other prices, you can pay to give someone a whole animal (like a llama), or a collection of animals (such as a flock of geese). They also offer tree saplings, bees, and even animal care for the receiving populations, all of which are very beneficial as well.

Each donation has its own value; for instance, alpacas provide not only meat, but a considerable amount of fur that can be used to make clothing and such, and with the meat can be sold to make a little money. Or, a chicken can lay eggs and be a "one-meal animal," meaning, as it sounds, it will be eaten in a single meal, and therefore will not have remaining meat that has to be preserved, as many people don't have refrigeration to save food that spoils.

While the animals sent across the world do not come directly from the Overlook, the farm does show the variety of animals with which Heifer works. At the farm, the tour guides first presented a video, reflecting all that they do with other nations as well as areas in the US. We discussed, as a group, how the animals could benefit people, besides the obvious. They made a list of what they call the "Seven Ms": meat, milk, manure, money, material, muscle, and motivation, some of which might not be thought of as helpful. Manure, for instance, while smelly, can be used as an energy source. At the Guatemala site, the guide pointed out a device that people put manure in to capture the methane gas and use it as an energy source; even their poo can be beneficial.

A goat at Heifer farm
Image: Molly McKenna

"They're ridiculously helpful in so many ways," one of the tour guides said enthusiastically, referring to the different animals.

Overlook Farm is more than just a farm: it's a realistic demonstration of why so many people need animals to live. The tour guides walked us around between different regions to which the animals are sent. We explored Peru, Guatemala, Kenya, China, Ghana, Poland, and regions in Appalachia in the US. In each region, we could see what a typical home looks like: most of the tiny homes were sparse, cold, and inconvenient. As expected, we saw how many families have no electricity, minimal space for several people, and live with difficult obstacles, such as breathing copious amount of smoke in order to keep houses warm without chimneys, or sleeping with netting over the beds to protect against disease-infested mosquitoes. Although most of us tend to know these type of situations from years of learning about such areas in classes and such, it's always more of an impact walking into their lifestyle and seeing what it would really be like to see their world of poverty. We all shivered a little when the wind bit us bitterly, but we all had a stop in the warm little gift shop to look forward to, followed by a pleasant bus ride back to our comfortable college campus; people in houses like these might still be shivering.

As disheartening as some of that could be, the farm didn't just show us their struggles: we saw all of the animals from which each region might benefit most. So many of the animals were incredibly friendly and eager to meet new people! We petted everything from alpacas to goats, llamas to pigs, bunnies to sheep, and so many more! The tour guides recommended that we didn't pet the rams, though; the males in heat often bend over forward and urinate into their beards as a way to attract females (which is something appealing to the females, apparently), and we really didn't want to touch that too much.

But it was really interesting learning about the animals mating: we didn't get graphic details, but the guides told us a bit about how they handle reproduction. For example, we saw how the younger, not very mature goats were kept away from the male goat who was ready to procreate, who was kept in a pen with the older eligible female bachelorettes. The male, Dante, showed his lusty agitation, bleating and crying out, obviously sexually frustrated. Then, we saw how some of the female sheep had different colored smudges on their bottoms; the guides told us that they first colored the males with a dye, so that they could tell which females were likely pregnant and by who. They also told us about Blackjack, the only male among a small group of pigs of an endangered breed, who they wanted to mate with the females, but was just too fat (he even got stuck in the mud due to his considerable girth!).

The names were clever: the offspring would have the same first letter of the mother's name, such as Cookie having little baby Cream. Some animals never were named, however; it just doesn't seem fair to name a pig that is intended to be slaughtered there (but sometimes they joke that the pigs might be named "bacon" or "ham").

I loved the animals, go figure. I'm lucky enough to have pets of my own and live with a sweet guide dog on campus, but it was thrilling to pet all sorts of different animals (and try not to think about the fact that most of them would eventually end up in someone's stomach). I know one of my friends on the trip wanted to inquire about taking a pig for herself, and I wanted one of the goats and an alpaca. I'm doubtful that the residence hall directors would have appreciated the additional roommates, though.

C.A.R.E. took part in a shorter day program; not only does the Overlook Farm offer different day trips, but they have special overnight programs during which people can sleep in the different houses, and a day camp and an alternative break program. As an Alternative Break advocate after three fantastic years and a member of C.A.R.E., I would love to see Western New England continue volunteering with Heifer.

Features

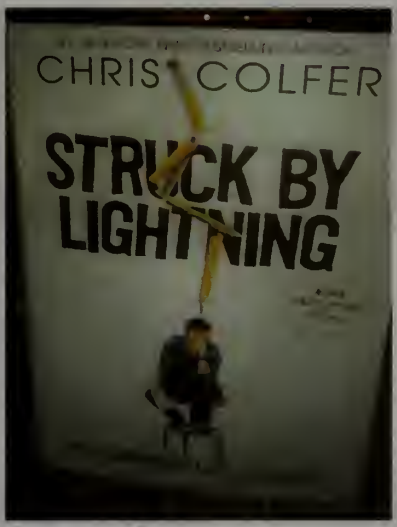
Book Review: "Struck By Lightning"

By: Hannah Berling

Imagine this: you are 22 years old, on a hit TV show, you've won a Golden Globe, you've been named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World, you are a New York Times Bestseller, and you have just released your second book which is based off the movie that you wrote, starred in, and executive produced. Did I mention you are only 22 years old?

This is the reality for "Glee" star and now second time author Chris Colfer. Colfer, who landed on the New York Times Best-seller list this summer with his children's novel "The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell," is at it again. Colfer's young adult novel, "Struck By Lightning: The Carson Phillips Journal," is based off his movie by the same title that will be released on On Demand in December, and in theatres in January, hit stores two weeks ago.

"Struck by Lighting" tells the tale of high school student Carson Phillips during his senior year in his small town of Clover, through his journal entries. Phillips is a student who knows what he wants from his future: to be accepted to Northwestern where he will continue on to be the youngest freelance journalist published in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, and Boston Globe. Oh yeah, he also wants to be the editor of The New Yorker. After being told by his guidance counselor that he should submit a literary magazine with his college application, Carson sets out to get submissions from the student body; a student body of which he finds himself at the bottom of the totem pole, causing him to rely on blackmail to help his dreams become reality.



Cover to Struck By Lightning
Image: Hannah Berling

The book is full of a hodge-podge of classic high school characters (the jock, the popular head cheerleader, the gothic girl, and so on) as well as Carson's anti-depressant addicted mother, dead beat father, and senile grandmother, who Colfer manages to bring to life even though their stories are being told through Carson's narrative. It is Colfer's ability to bring Carson's snarky personality to life through the journal pages though that makes the story so humorous and relatable.

Laced with sarcastic comments, pop-culture references, and witty analogies Carson's narrative says everything that so many people probably wish they would have said in high school. While the reader can laugh at clever insults, such as Carson jogging by a cheerleader chanting, "two, four, six, eight, heard you like to fornicate," there are many moments throughout the book where Carson's vulnerability comes through that make him a well-executed, multi-faceted character.

This book is a soap box for anyone who felt like they got the short end of the stick in high school. In the dedication, Colfer writes, "to every president or captain of a writers' club, drama club, speech and debate team, Destination ImagiNation team, every editor of a high school newspaper or literary magazine, and anyone overachieving in their own right and underappreciated for it... this book is for you!" The story within the pages lives up to that dedication as Carson is the perfect spokesperson for anyone who wanted to be heard in school, or anyone who wasn't afraid to speak their mind.

As a whole, Struck by Lightning is a book that works to show its readers that you should never stop working towards your dreams, no matter how far out of reach they seem. As Carson writes, "Like having a great idea, life comes at you fast. It hits you and tries to escape and be expressed in any way possible. In a way, it's a lot like... lightning."

Chris Colfer is showing that he has the potential to be so much more than "that kid from Glee," he has a gift for writing and has a story to be told. Does Carson make it to Northwestern, or to the editor's desk at The New Yorker? Pick up the book and find out for yourself; find yourself in Carson's story.

In a Nutshell: an Advice Column

Q: How early should I start studying for an exam? –Christina D.

A: ***She Says:*** While you've usually heard that you should start studying for an exam as soon as you know when it will be, I don't think that is always the best option. I think it all goes based on how well you know the subject at hand. If you have an exam for a class that you find out about, say, a week before it will be, decide how much time you really think you need to study for it. In my opinion, if it is for a subject that you have a lot of confidence in, and you feel that you have mastered all of the material that will be on that particular exam, don't spend valuable time studying for it all week, when you could be doing other homework or studying for other exams. If you feel confident in the subject matter, perhaps just study for an hour for each of two days before the test, as well as a quick review the day of, if feasible. Don't overexert your brain on something that you feel you really know. Although it may be reinforcement of knowledge, it may actually end up making you forget a lot of what you thought you knew right before you need to regurgitate it all out on the test. On the other hand, however, if you are not so confident in the subject at hand, spend more time on it. What's best to do is study a little bit every night, or whenever you do your homework. Set aside a designated amount of time for studying that material. If you can, maybe study one chapter or section each day leading up to the exam, or perhaps, just as much as you think you can handle per day. By all means, DO NOT leave the majority of the material to be studied the day before the exam, it will only create a problem for you. If you start studying early enough, you can go to your professor or even your classmates with questions or concerns about anything you don't fully understand. If you wait until the last minute, you will find yourself scrambling and panicking about what you can't grasp and trying to find anyone to ask for help at two in the morning, probably not to much avail. So in short, pace yourself. Do what you can each day, and don't be afraid to ask for help. And above all, don't freak out just because you don't understand every little detail, you won't die if you don't get perfect marks on an exam. Always be willing to learn from your mistakes and be ready to do better the next time.

He Says: Early. As soon as it's assigned. As soon as "there's an exam on _____" leaves your professor's lips. The sooner, the better. But don't do it all at once. On average, the human mind can only fully comprehend AND RETAIN (key word) roughly 30 minutes of received information. Anything after that may be comprehended, but the cognitive functions of your brain won't store it as long-term memory information and will be forgotten instantly. So, study in blocks. Do 30 minutes now, thirty minutes after dinner, thirty minutes next morning, thirty minutes before your 3:30 class. Also, evaluate your strengths. Is it a class that you need to study for? How hard do you think you have to study? Remember that college is about priorities. When you focus solely on one aspect, all others diminish.

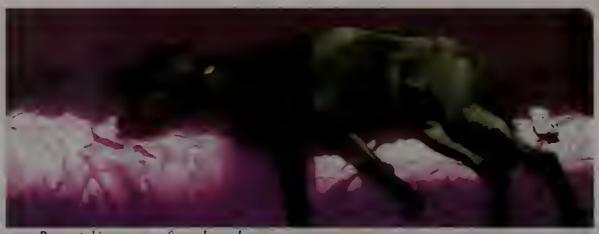
Features

My Ode to Dogs

By: Sarah Wiles

"Man's best friend" has a very special place in my heart. Dogs are loyal, understanding, playful, loving, happy, reliable, and eternally optimistic. They can be friends, companions, playmates, and helpers. They can be tiny, humungous, and everything in between. There are black dogs, yellow dogs, brown dogs, white dogs, and many combinations. Each dog's personality is unique.

There are several dogs in particular that are close to my heart. One was my pet from my babyhood: A loyal black lab named Jimmer. He was my first best friend, and he devoted his life to protecting my family from scary strangers knocking at the door. Unfortunately, he developed cancer when



Renee taking a nap after a lang day
Image: Scatt Nette

I was twelve, and even though we paid for surgery to eradicate it, he was never the same after. He got so weak that he couldn't stand up on his own, and his bark grew weary and tired. Eventually, my family accepted that we had to say goodbye to him. Now, we often reminisce about him, remembering what a great companion he was, and how protective he was of us all.

Another dog close to my heart is my pet, Dutch, who is a lovable chocolate lab. He also has taken on the role of our alarm system; if you don't hear the person knocking at the door, you still know they are there because Dutch is barking up a storm. Dutch isn't as quitwitted as Jimmer, but he is equally--if not more--loving. He came into our family at about age four, when his puppy days were pretty much over, so he doesn't play much. He just wants to be petted and loved. If you are sitting at a level convenient for him, he will persistently nudge you with his wet nose, until you give in and pet him.

One last dog that is very close to my heart is my Seeing Eye dog: a beautiful black lab named Renee. I met her two years ago, just before starting at WNE. She was only two and a half, and she still had many puppy traits. She taught me how to really play, but most importantly, she taught me the meaning of unconditional trust. Every day, she makes it possible for me to independently navigate wherever I want to go. Sure, we have our bad days, but even on the bad days, Renee's tail still wags as if to say, "It's going to be okay." She is my best friend and my favorite companion. She is there through everything, and hugging her always makes me feel better. She is always loyal, understanding, trustworthy, playful, and loving.

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

The weekend of November 3 and 4 was busy for University Police. They assisted Springfield Police with several off campus house parties. Students who rent these houses were issued city ordinance fines for noise and underage drinking and face University sanctions for violations of the Student Conduct Code. At least two men were transported by ambulance, having overdosed on alcohol. One man was found in the middle of the road passed out.

On November 5, medical assistance was rendered to an employee in Churchill Hall. The employee had suffered a seizure, and struck his head. The employee was transported to the hospital for further treatment. In a separate incident, a Public Safety employee suffered a minor head injury while repairing an access control issue. The injury was treated by Health Services and the employee was able to return to work.

On November 8, a student reported their cell phone stolen from the AHLC. The theft occurred when the student was playing basketball and left the property unattended nearby. The student provided a description of a suspect. University Police are investigating the incident.

On November 11, an active fire alarm was received at Western New England University Police Station for Gateway Village. Officers responded to the address and searched for the cause of the alarm. Officers soon detected an odor of burnt marijuana. The resident was questioned and police located other drugs in plain view in the apartment. The case is under investigation.

On November 16, University Police were asked to perform a wellbeing check. A concern for the student was brought forward by several professors. After a brief investigation, the student was located safe at their home address.

On November 16, Officers were dispatched to reports of a fight inside Gateway Village possibly involving 20 people. Upon our arrival, officers observed numerous people leaving the area. The participants were located, identified, and questioned. There were conflicting reports of the incident. Responding officers could not confirm either individual's account of the incident. One man was treated for minor injuries.

On November 16, University Police conducted a motor vehicle stop on Evergreen Road after it was revealed the vehicle's registration was revoked for lack of insurance coverage. The vehicle's operator was identified as a food delivery person. The operator was cited and the vehicle was towed.

On November 16, Officers responded to a one car motor vehicle accident on Bradley Road by the S. Prestley Blake Law Center. Responding officers reported that the vehicle rolled over and came to rest on its roof on the tree belt and sidewalk near the Law Clinic. Dispatch notified the Springfield Police Department due to the accident occurring on the city road. The vehicle was unoccupied. After a search of the surrounding streets, the operator was never located. It appears that prior to the accident, the operator was driving in a southerly direction on Bradley Road, crossed the solid yellow lines, struck the curb and tree, which caused the vehicle to flip over. The damage to the motor vehicle was extensive.

On November 21, at approximately 11:16 PM, during Thanksgiving break, University Police discovered a housing violation in Gateway Village. Police observed a party at an address that was not on the Residence Life approved list. Several underage people were discovered hiding in the apartment and were asked to leave. A large quantity of alcoholic beverages was confiscated. The violation was reported to Residence Life.

Reminder: please make sure that when you leave for the break to secure your doors and windows. Please take home your valuables.

Also please make sure your E2campus account is active. Winter is coming. Select weather alerts for cancelation and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSFSR.pdf

Sports & Puzzles

Coach Kolins: tennis coach, civility leader, role-model

By: Michael Masciadrelli

For some, their passion may be playing a sport. Tennis incorporates forehands, backhands, serves, strategy, and a mental game like no other. Before tennis matches begin, the opposing players warm up together, hitting balls to each other to help them practice their serves, smashes, and groundstrokes. This unique tradition of helping your opponent has always been a part of the sport. But of course the physicality of the game is highly demanding. Players dash side to side, breathing hard through each point, pushing their bodies to the maximum. Jen Kolins, tennis coach at Western New England University, strongly supports the game's respectful nature and lives off these intense moments for her student athletes, coaching both the women's and men's teams. She takes pride in the sport she treasures dearly and also the campus community she serves.

On campus, Kolins can often be seen proudly wearing her blue Western New England tennis spring coat with the golden bear logo, her brown hair tied back in a neat bun, and a warm smile on her face.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Penn., Kolins first discovered the sport at a recreational playground near her house. She grew up with a mother who supported her love for tennis. Members of the USTA (United States Tennis Association) discovered her and other kids at playgrounds across the city.

"Tennis was not a popular sport for city kids," Kolins admitted.

But after beginning to play at this small playground when she was seven, tennis became her passion. She developed her game at the prestigious Arthur Ashe Tennis Facility in Philadelphia (now called the Legacy Tennis Youth and Education Center) where she met the late African-American tennis great, Arthur Ashe.

"Arthur Ashe was a definite mentor of mine and talked to me about life lessons, dreams, and playing better tennis," said Kolins.

Her four years at the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts focused on excelling in three areas; academics, volleyball, and tennis. She took her tennis talent to the University of Hartford where she received a scholarship to play as a Hartford Hawk. She played all four years and became captain during her final three years.

"At the University of Hartford, I received my Bachelor in Arts degree in inner personal communication and minored in sport marketing," said Kolins.

Her major provided the opportunity to work for the ATP World Tour Men's Doubles Championship, as well as meeting her tennis idols—Martina Navratilova and Billy Jean King.

"Growing up, Martina Navratilova and Billy Jean King were my favorite tennis players. I idolized them and what they did for the game," Kolins said with a smile.

Of course Coach Kolins enjoys seeing her players fire forehand winners, flawless backhands, and aces with their serves, but she realizes there are more important aspects in life for the students. Kolins, co-coordinator of NCAA CHAMPS Life Skills program, seeks leadership opportunities and community service for student athletes. The organization aims at developing student athletes, helping with future careers, and gaining leadership skills. Being a role-model for others is considered of greatest importance for Kolins.

"Athletes are role-models and this helps them grow as people," stated Kolins.

Kolins co-advises the Civility Leadership Team which asks all students to step up against what she answered as, "incivility in the community." The team pushes the motto to treat others the way they'd want to be treated. Kolins also works with the Student Athlete Advising Committee (SAAC), spreading sportsmanship and looking out for the general well-being of student athletes.

Coach Kollins
Image: WNE Athletics

After 13 years, some coaches may lose motivation. Not Jen Kolins. When asked what keeps her motivated each year she answered,

"By far the students. Seeing the students flourish and watch them become leaders, either for the team or leading their own lives is always rewarding. Every year is significantly different and poses new challenges, but at the same time are opportunities. There's always something new," said the University of Hartford alum.

When the tennis coach packs up after a day at WNE, she goes home to a life that usually doesn't involve tennis. For her life away from the court and obligations on campus, Kolins describes some of her hobbies.

"I love volleyball, staying active, and enjoying the outdoors. At my house, I like doing projects. I have built a patio and have done repair. I also have a dog named Cooper and like spending time with him when I'm home" said the tennis coach.

As a coach, she considers it a privilege to be a part of the lives of so many college students. Co-captain of the Men's Team, Tyler Unwin, gives his opinion of Coach Kolins and her impact at Western New England.

"Coach Kolins brings so much to not only the WNE Tennis program, but the WNE athletic family. She is one of the most dedicated coaches I have ever played for and truly loves working with the team," said Unwin.

The new co-captain discussed how she coaches the team, "Coach Kolins' coaching style is a unique one. She expects us to always give 100 percent effort both on and off the court. She is very straight forward to us about how she thinks we are playing and about the lineup for matches."

Kolins finds it important to interact with each individual athlete. Each time after talking to a player, Kolins gives her trademark fist bump to the athlete, displaying her friendly personality. Sophomore Michele Magliulo of the women's team spoke of her strong grace for Kolins making a comfortable environment.

"Coming into my first year on the team, she's the one that made everybody so close," said Magliulo.

Michele also indicated a difference in the way her high school coach and Kolins run the team.

"High school coaches wouldn't go on court while Coach Kolins will play alongside you and tells you what she sees work or doesn't work. With her, she talks to you as an equal, not as a coach. She is also not scared to tell you what's wrong and she's very straightforward" said the sophomore.

Throughout her time as a coach, Kolins has found success. Her winning percentage for the women's team at WNE is an unprecedented 124-40 (.716), one of the best records for coaches in the conference. In nine years as the men's tennis coach, she has produced a .613 winning percentage.

Although there have been many benefits of coaching, she still recalls the most difficult challenge each year.

"Certainly cuts are always a huge challenge where I watch players work hard at their sport and not be able to continue to play for the team. Money may also get in the way of how I run the team," said Kolins.

Both the men's and women's teams were named to the ITA (Intercollegiate Tennis Association) all-academic team last year, showing the coach's emphasis on excelling in the classroom.

"Reaching a Conference Championship and winning one is a major goal of mine, but a lot of things go into it. One of those things is my huge philosophy that tennis is a team sport," said Kolins.

As the motivated WNE tennis coach moves forward in her 13th season, she hopes to continue to make a difference in the lives of student athletes and at the university she adores.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: westerner@wneclubs.org

The Westerner has a new e-mail! Please send all emails regarding articles, corrections, ads ect. to the new e-mail address at westerner@wneclubs.org

Sports

Upcoming Events:

(Home games are in bold)

Friday Dec. 7
Men's Ice Hockey at Nazareth College 7:00 pm
Wrestling at Rhode Island College 7:00 pm

Saturday Dec. 8
Women's Swimming vs University of New England 12:00 pm
Women's Basketball vs Mount Ida College 1:00 pm
Men's Basketball vs Westfield State University 3:00 pm
Men's Ice Hockey at The College at Brockport 4:00 pm

No games through the holidays

Saturday Dec. 29
Women's Basketball vs Amherst College 2:00 pm

Sunday Dec. 30
Women's Basketball vs Cabrini College 10:00 am

Wednesday Jan. 2
Men's Basketball at Western Connecticut State 5:00 pm

Sat, Jan. 05, 2013
Wrestling at Roger Williams University Tournament 10:00 am
Women's Basketball at Endicott College 1:00 pm
Men's Basketball at Endicott College 3:00 pm

Western New England University Home of the Golden Bears!

Good luck to all winter athletic teams!

Interested in sports?

Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears? Have a knack for journalism or writing in general? The Westerner would love to have you! We are looking for any students who have an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write one WNE sports related articles per issue.

If you are interested please contact us at westerner@wneclubs.org or on Twitter @wne_westerner or via our facebook page! Join us at one of our meetings held Thursdays at 7:30pm in Rivers 105.

WINTER ATHLETICS RESULTS*

Men's Basketball:
Wins: 2
Losses: 4
Conference Play: 2-0

Women's Basketball:
Wins: 4
Losses: 2
Conference Play: 2-0

Wrestling
Wins: 1
Losses: 0
Conference Play: N/A

Women's Swimming:
Wins: 2
Losses: 2
Conference Play: N/A

Men's Ice Hockey:
Wins: 6
Losses: 3
Conference Play: 3-1

***As of 12/5/12**

WNE Athletes in the news:

Basketball: Western New England University freshman forward Zack Askew (Middletown, Conn./ Vinal Technical High School) has been named the Commonwealth Coast Conference Rookie of the Week in men's basketball, it was announced on Monday.

Ice Hockey: For the second time in three weeks, Western New England University junior Eric Sorenson (Fairport, NY/ Syracuse Stars, EJHL) has been named the goalie of the week by the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Northeast men's hockey league. The period ended Sunday for games played from Nov. 19-25.

Congratulations!

Kevin Parma Receives CoSIDA Academic All-America Laurels: Junior tri-captain is first Golden Bears men's soccer player to earn this prestigious award

The College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) announced on Tuesday that Kevin Parma of the Western New England University men's soccer team has been named to the 2012 Capital One Academic All-America NCAA Division III First Team. The junior defender from Peconic, N.Y. (Southold High School), becomes the first CoSIDA Academic All-America in the storied 47-year history of the Golden Bears program and the first Western New England student-athlete since football's Mike Valentine (first team) in 2011.

The Official Student Newspaper of Western New England University

The Westerner

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Profit and risk come with incoming casinos

By: Spencer Ives

Image of envisioned plans for MGM Springfield
Image: www.mgmspringfield.com

On January 11, 2013, Hard Rock International added a news article to their website detailing a proposition for the construction of a casino in West Springfield, Massachusetts. These plans run parallel with those that have been developing with MGM for the past several months. MGM has been planning and coordinating a proposal to build a casino in downtown Springfield. These casinos would be placed opposite one another on mirroring sides of Interstate-91. MGM Springfield has proposed their building to be constructed near the center of downtown Springfield, whereas the "Hard Rock Hotel & Casino New England" will be built on part of the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition, also known as The Big E. Both of these plans have the potential to impact Western New England University students in quite separate ways.

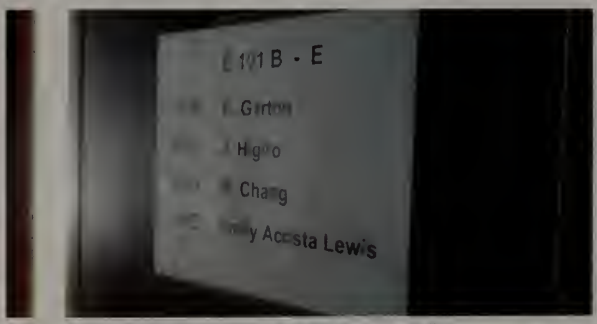
There have been many developments in this matter of MGM Springfield over the past half-year, ranging from the initial proposal in August of 2012, to the recent support by members of the Springfield community including the South End Citizen's Council and the Police and Firefighter's Union.

In regards to the proposed construction of MGM Springfield and the benefits that a Casino in the

Continued an page 2

Communication faculty moves from Rivers to Emerson

By: Hannah Berling



The new sign in Emersan shawing the communications faculty offices
Image: Hannah Berling

Walking through the hallways in the back of Rivers Arena, students may have noticed that the section once home to the Communication Department faculty now looks like a ghost town. This sudden emptiness is a result of the faculty getting new office space in Emerson.

Over the winter break, the professors of the Communication Department packed up their offices in Rivers and moved into their new home on the first floor of Emerson. This is the first time the department has had office space in the building since the summer of 2006.

"I feel like we're more in the flow of academic life here than tucked away in Rivers," Department Chair Douglas Battema stated. "We see our colleagues more and have easier access to the Dean and support services," he added.

In 2002, the department was new and comprised of three full-time faculty members: current Professors Battema and Higiro, along with Nancy Hoar. In years to come the department would expand, needing more office space for its growing faculty. During the summer of 2006, the department offices were moved to Rivers, which had enough office space to hold the growing department. Now, with the addition of the CSP and renovation of Herman Hall, office space became more abundant in Emerson, allowing the Communication Department to return to its old home.

Professor Battema explained how the move from his old office to his new one happened quickly yet was a simple process.

"Classes ended [in December]; we had a few days to pack, and then we moved. It was almost like magic, it was very smooth," Battema stated.

The move also gave faculty the chance to reorganize all the paperwork and files housed in their offices.

"Anytime a move happens, it forces one to go through files, bookcases, and desks to determine what should be kept. Moving can be good to help clear out

Continued an page 2

News

Successful entrepreneurs speak to campus community

By: Laura D'Angelo

On Tuesday, January 29, The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship welcomed three accomplished business owners to speak to the campus community about the successful founding and maintenance of their respective companies.

The panel of speakers included Robert C. Andrews Jr., founder of DMV entertainment, Tina Stevens, founder of a multi-channel marketing firm known as Stevens 470, and Janine Fondon, founder of Unityfirst.com, an online community that includes two million users of a diverse population.

Because the theme of the presentation was Creative Communications, the panel spoke specifically about the outlets that helped them get where they are today and their preferred networking tools.

"Facebook did all this," said Andrews. He explained how the social medium helped him reach former friends and colleagues, allowing him to find people who took an interest in his company.

Speakers Tina Stephens, Robert Andrews, and Janine Fondon
Image: wne.edu

Andrews, who has done work as a Producer, Art Director, and Graphic Designer in film and television, put his innovative ideas into practice by founding his own entertainment group. This spring, he is planning to shoot a pilot of a television show, and may ask for students from the WNE campus.

Stevens picked up on the discussion next, where she explained that her learning process has never ended.

Her multi-channel marketing firm offers web design and other promotional services to smaller businesses. Since she started owning a business when she was twenty-two years old, she knew she would have to keep up with the fast-paced world and learn new technologies as they emerged.

She explained the importance of visiting different places around the world in order to network for her business, and how being self-employed "taught her to save money."

The final speaker on the panel, Janine Fondon, emphasized that the use of technology helped to jumpstart her business.

"Technology is key," she said. Fondon added that the Internet opens new networks of people much faster than other technologies. Her other points of advice included: keep a database of networks and people, emulate successful companies, and always focus on the future.

The speakers left the audience with important thoughts and words of wisdom to keep in mind when beginning the journey to entrepreneurship.

Be proud of the decisions you make. Surround yourself with people who will help you. Figure out where the world is going.

The presentation took place at 12:30 in Sleith Hall, and included lunch prior to the presentation.

MGM Springfield **cont. from first page.**

area of downtown Springfield could bring, Adam Cruz, President of the Student Senate, discusses the possible benefits of such a development: "This would be a deal that adds a lot of revenue and tax money to the city, and I think that having a multi-billion dollar company down the street could be an invaluable asset to WNE students seeking strong internships to help further their own careers…".

Though, he also goes on to state that there could be some risks with such a sudden change, mentioning that there could be a possibility of a rise in crime as well as the chance for gambling to be a distraction or even an addiction to those in the community or on the campus. Cruz also states, "I have felt for years that Springfield is an underestimated city by many."

Perhaps this is a chance to have an influx of appreciation as well as visitation.

Most, if not all of these sentiments concerning the benefits this situation could bring to the students at WNE are given solid ground by the statements made by MGM on their MGM Springfield web page. This site mentions internship, as well as job opportunities and financial assistance for higher education. They also discuss their dedication to the support of their surrounding community through both donation and employee volunteering.

Similar to MGM, Hard Rock has a high priority on the betterment of the community, mentioning the potential their proposal has for the creation of jobs. This project seems poised to affect students in a less direct way. With The Big E being an event many students on campus look forward to, some students worry about how this could change their beloved exposition. It is not intended for "Hard Rock Hotel & Casino New England" to overshadow or take over the grounds of The Big E, but instead to utilize a fraction of the land, a little more than one fifth in total, in order to draw more attention to the site.

On this topic, junior Becky Fields, a Big E enthusiast, states: "I would be worried about how this might distract from The Big E.... I think the casino would be intruding on tradition. I go every year- sometimes even twice." The Big E is in a position to gain from this endeavor, though for some it could be a little tough imagining it when it carries the ability to impact their existing traditions.

One thing is certain within both of these proposals: one of their aims and goals is to better the community they will situate themselves in. Whether this will be through new entertainment made available to the students here, possible career opportunities, or even improving the areas just off campus, it seems possible that students within this area could find much to gain in the future, though, not entirely without risk.

Comm faculty move **cont. from first page**

the old, and make way for the new," Professor Brenda Garton stated.

The move has also made it easier for students in the Communication department to access their professors.

"Our new location in Emerson provides us with easy access for more students to stop by because they walk right by our offices, which is a positive aspect to have offices in the academic buildings where we teach. It's also easier if a student wants to visit right after class, my office is so close it provides better opportunities for those impromptu chats and meetings," Garton said.

"It's definitely more convenient, they are closer to where we actually have classes, so it's easier to stop by and ask questions if we need to. We don't need to haul across campus," senior Communication major Laura D'Angelo said of stopping by her professors' offices now.

The move has so far benefitted the students, who no longer have to search for offices in the back corner of Rivers (a space which many people not associated with the department did not even know existed), and the faculty who are finding nothing but positive aspects of their new facilities.

"Personally, I like the location because it's close to the TV Studio where I spend much of my time," Garton said.

"I love it because I have windows now that I don't have to stand on a chair to see out of," Battema joked.

With open space now available in Rivers, the University is looking into options about who will inherit the space. In Emerson, the Communication Department now has room to grow, with office space still available.

"If we expand in years to come, we have office space to do so," Battema said.

News & Enterainment

Students volunteer on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By: Kaylene Hersey

While most students spent their first weekend sleeping in after a long first week of classes, there were a select few students who decided to spend their long weekend helping others out.

January 19 and 20, six students took part in the Martin Luther King Days of Action. It was two days filled with many community service activities, put on by the Civic Engagement department with Koni Denham as the advisor.

"My favorite part of the Martin Luther King Days of Action was the opportunity to work with other students to give back to the community of Springfield," said sophomore Mike Masciadrelli.

The first day started out at nine in the morning. They first attended a presentation on leadership. This was then followed by a tour of Springfield, and then lastly, they had a group discussion on Martin Luther King Jr. and what he was advocating.

"My favorite part of the first day was getting to know the city of Springfield and seeing that it is not a city of violence and economic disparity, but a city of firsts and hardworking people," said sophomore Lauren Kneller.

After a long day, the students returned to Western New England at five at night, only to wait for another early morning. The second day they started out working at a book warehouse, organizing and stacking books for a program called Book It. The students then cleaned the stairways of apartment buildings at the Sullivan Apartments.

"Working together at the book warehouse and then cleaning the apartment homes were fun," said Masciadrelli.

At the end of the day, the students sat down and reflected with each other about what they did over the course of the two days.

"I learned that community service is about going into an area and working with the people, not working for them. It is about putting yourself in someone else's shoes and learning about a lifestyle that is different than yours," said Kneller.

Overall, the trip opened the students' eyes to community service and what it means to give back.

"I did it because it was an opportunity to satisfy an LBC and Alpha Lambda Delta service hours requirements and also found the idea of exploring the foundation of community service and learning more about Martin Luther King to be very interesting. It is an experience I'll never forget, and the people I worked with made it much better," said Masciadrelli.

TV Talk: Award winners not all from top four major networks

By: Hannah Berling

The last two weeks gave way to some major awards for television. Both the 2013 Golden Globe Awards and Screen Actor's Guild Awards chose their winners, many of which did not come from the major networks, ABC, CBS, NBC, or FOX.

First, the Golden Globes brought all the best talent in Hollywood together and showed us that, if a show was on a major cable network, others didn't stand a chance.

Showtime saw four wins, including Best TV Drama in "Homeland," a show which also nabbed best acting wins for Damien Lewis and Claire Danes, and a best actor in a comedy series win for Don Cheadle in "House of Lies."

HBO took 5 Globes thanks to the mini-series Game Change, and the popular new comedy "Girls." "Game Change" brought home an award for Best Mini-Series or Made for Television Movie, along with acting wins for Julianne Moore and Ed Harris. "Girls" earned two awards, Best Television Series - Comedy or Musical and Best Actress in a Television Series - Comedy or Musical for Lena Denham, who also serves as the writer of the show. Dunhams awkward, yet sincere acceptance speeches stole the night, culminating in her thanking Chad Lowe for no particular reason in her acceptance speech.

Lena Dunham (center) and the cast af "Girls"
Image: Hollywood Reparter

PBS's incredibly popular British drama, "Downton Abbey," picked up a win for actress Maggie Smith, who also had a chance to win in the Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture - Comedy or Musical but was beaten out by Anne Hathaway of "Les Miserables."

The History Channel even picked up a win as Kevin Costner claimed a Globe in the Best Actor in a Mini-Series or Made for Television Movie for his role in "Hatfield's and McCoys."

Two weeks later, many of the same stars of television and film came together again for the SAG Awards. While ABC and NBC were able to nab a couple of honors here, many off the beaten path shows stole the show.

ABC's "Modern Family," once again took the award for Best Ensemble Cast in a Comedy, beating "Glee," "Big Bang Theory," "30 Rock," "The Office," and "Nurse Jackie" (notice that they didn't have to compete with "Girls").

NBC's "30 Rock," which recently ended, got Best Acting awards for both Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin. The show was also praised by "Modern Family" executives when they received their award, noting how much the show has meant to the comedy genre.

While Claire Danes took home her second award in two weeks for her role on "Homeland," the show was not able to capture the SAG panel the way it did the Golden Globes voters as it was beat out in the Best Ensemble Cast in a Drama category by "Downton Abbey".

Bill Cranston of "Breaking Bad" helped AMC get some SAG representation by winning Best Actor in a Television Series - Drama, even though the show could not get past "Downton Abbey".

Other stars who claimed their second award in two weeks included Julianne Moore and Kevin Costner.

This intcresting shift in award voters looking more closely at shows not on the four major television networks serves as an example to viewers that it pays to look outside the basic cable channels to find a new television addiction. Go out and look for the diamonds in the rough, because clearly, there are shows good enough to win the praise of award voters.

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FEATURES

Beer Review: Brewmaster Jack's Stray Dog Lager

By: Chris Principato

I am going to start Stray Dog Lager's review with a different "approach." The approach I am referring to takes place before the brew is even poured. The approach is the first magical love at first sight moment you have with a brew across the package store or bar. As I researched my next review online, sorting through the immense amount of beer BS from the "big guys," I got freakin' fed up. After I threw my keyboard across the room and yelled a few profanities to the internet gods (Bill Gates?), I drove to the nearest package store I could find. As I walked through the abnormally narrow isles that you only find in a package store, I was faced with a few options of local brews. Suddenly I found myself in an old cartoon with an angel on my right shoulder and a devil on my left. The devil was pushing me towards a tough-natured black-labeled beer with silver accents, while the angel was telling me something about the devil's nectar and damnation or something... I obviously ignored the angel and sprung towards this intriguing elixir feeling as if I was about to enjoy Liam Neeson's beverage of choice before taking on massive wolves. I went home with my head held high and my adrenaline rushing, preparing me for this B.A. of a brew.

Upon approach, Stray Dog Lager has a gentle wine aroma and a dark amber hue. When first tasted, a delicate hop and barley flavor comes through but is almost immediately balanced by a unique malty sweetness. The finish to this brew is medium bodied, crisp, and does not linger on the palate. Stray Dog Lager is a beer for all occasions: it is easy to drink, has a good balance of high and medium to low notes and always entices the next sip. Stray Dog Lager pairs well with lighter chicken or pork dishes. I do not recommend this Lager for spicy or highly spiced foods due to its lack of complimenting low notes. For its ease of drinking, medium body, crisp finish, and tough-natured packaging I am giving Stray Dog Lager 3 out of 5 beers.

About the Brewery

Stray Dog Lager's manufacturer, Brewmaster Jack, is but a babe in the craft beer industry. Founded in 2011, Brewmaster Jack has worked hard to provide Western Massachusetts with a local delicacy. Buying into the fad and debated fact that local ingredients are "better," Brewmaster Jack works with local malthouses and grain farms to provide fresh ingredients for their brewing process. If that isn't enough to make any hipster walk out of their coffee shop, tie up their high-tops, and stroll to their local packie, Brewmaster Jack currently makes their beer with 25% organic ingredients and intends to grow that percentage to 100% within the next few years. Brewmaster Jack is located in Northampton, MA, and will definitely expand beyond their current "limited" distribution area. For anyone that is interested in trying out local brews "before they get popular," Brewmaster Jack is right for you. Please enjoy their delicious and enticing beverages responsibly and remember to enjoy the local fare.

Brewmaster Jack's Stray Dog Lager
Image: Chris Principato

3/5 Beers

Note: All students consuming alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

Creative Corner: An original piece written by a WNE student

By: Robert L. Gilchrist

The Westerner is incorporating an original story in segments. This is a continuation of the story included in last semester's issues. Look for part 6 in the next issue of the Westerner.

Jason and the Golden Fleece: Part 5

"Why am I doing this?" wondered Jason as he sat on the edge of the roof, staring across the street to Senator Aeetes' office. He had been watching him for the past two weeks, and no sign that he had been involved with anything illegal.

"I know why I'm doing this," he mused. "It's because of what that girl told me (Medea, was it? The senator's daughter, she had said). She said he was involved with the death of my family."

At this, Jason's mind went back to that night. The last night he had been known as Heracles. Waking up, knowing something was wrong in the apartment, seeing all the blood… seeing his wife lying on the bed, and their son…

"No, don't go there," Jason said to himself. He knew if he did, he would lose sight of who he was. Everything that Or'Cl had taught him on Mount Delphi. That place where he had taken the name Jason.

Just as he was clearing his mind though, he noticed movement across the street in the senator's office. Jason grabbed the binoculars he had found and brought them to his eyes. He saw someone walk into the office and hand Aeetes a file. They spoke for a minute, and then he left Aeetes alone.

"This is a waste of time," grumbled Jason. "This guy hasn't done anything to show me he's somehow involved in some sort of criminal empire, and definitely not that he had anything to do with their deaths." He then rose and began to make his way to the fire escape, realizing he had been duped. But then he noticed Aeetes move to the window and look around, as if to see if he was being watched.

Intrigued by this, Jason turned and made his way back to his previous position. He saw Aeetes move to the door and lock it, and then back to his desk where he unlocked a drawer in his desk. He pulled out a phone and made a call to someone. Jason now felt like he was onto something.

As the conversation continued, Jason noted Aeetes began to grow more and more agitated. Soon he hung up the phone and placed it back in the drawer he had taken it from. Just then he pulled something else out of it that made Jason's heart stop.

It was a small fleece blanket. But it was gold, and gave off a slight glow in the late afternoon sun that filtered through the window. On the blanket were flecks of blood. Jason recognized it at once; it was the blanket his son had been wrapped in when he died.

Jason had assumed it was in police lockup, where most of the articles of his old apartment now lay in storage, the case to find the killers being declared a cold case years ago. There was only one way Aeetes could have gotten his hands on it; if he had, in fact, been involved somehow with their deaths.

Jason then rose and made his way to the fire escape. He now knew what his plan of attack was. But if he was going to pull it off, he was going to need a little help.

Medea had finally finished all the classwork she had been assigned and stood up from her desk to stretch. Being a grad student definitely wasn't easy, and she was really starting to question why she had decided to do this. It was probably because her father didn't want it. It seemed like most things she did these days were to go against her father.

"Any reason you chose to live on campus?" came a voice from the window. "Aside from your father being a lying crook."

"So I take it you saw him being…implicit, shall we say, in certain criminal activities?"

"I saw him take a phone out of his desk and make a call to someone," said Jason as he came through the window. "I also saw him with the thing you said he had that I'd be interested in."

"So what are you going to do?" she asked Jason as he pondered a photo of Medea and her mother.

"What I intended to do from the beginning," he muttered, setting down the photo. "Kill him."

"But that won't solve anything," Medea said. "If we kill him, he becomes a martyr and you become public enemy number one. We need to expose him for who he really is."

Continued on page 5

Features and Opinion

Jason continued from fourth page

"We?" asked Jason. "Since when did this become a tag-team thing?"

"Well if you know how to crack all the firewalls to get to my father's private files, then you're welcome to do this without me." Jason said nothing.

"Alright. Now, if we do this your way – and I assume that means going in guns blazing – I obviously won't be accompanying you. So take this." She then handed Jason a flash drive.

"What's this for?" he asked.

"To give me remote access to my father's computer. So I can uphold my end of this from here, and you can have your fun fighting all of my father's guards."

"How many are there?" Jason asked. Already the plan was beginning to form in his mind.

"A few dozen at least," said Medea. "And these aren't just your run of the mill security guards. They've been trained by Aeetes' head of security Sleepless Dragon. I mean, they call themselves 'Teeth of a Dragon,' so that goes to show what you'll be up against."

"Doesn't scare me," said Jason. "And 'Sleepless Dragon?' What, were his parents hippies or something?"

"Kung Fu masters," she muttered. "Trained in dozens of forms of combat. He was pretty much bred to fight."

"Of course he was," said Jason. Yet he still was undeterred in his planning.

Medea then took something from her drawer and handed it to Jason. "Take this as well. It'll help you take down Sleepless Dragon without too much difficulty."

Jason accepted it, knowing he'd only use it if he really had to. He was prepared to make everyone associated with Aeetes suffer. For what they did to him, no amount of suffering would be enough…

To Be Continued…

Do You Have the Green light to Graduate?

By: Gennah Borg

I will never need this in the real world! How many times have you argued this statement with the material being covered in your classes? My guess is far too many; however, that is about to change! Here at Western New England University we have a dual learning technique that not only meets a university graduation requirement, it provides a unique opportunity for our students to apply theories and concepts from the classroom into the real world- into *their* world. Students, meet Learning Beyond the Classroom (LBC) 101!

What is an LBC, you ask? The Learning Beyond the Classroom is a general education requirement that simply provides students at Western New England University with an exclusive opportunity to personalize an experience they feel can be related back to a topic or lesson learned within their classroom. The LBC requirement does not limit students to classroom-discovered connections. Students are fortunate to have the ability of writing their reflection paper based on their experiences that have taken place on the athletic fields, in the workplace, within the community, or across our campus.

Seniors, do you have the green light to graduate? At Western New England University, students must complete two LBC experiences before they graduate. Picture a traffic light. Red means stop, yellow means slow down, and green means go! In LBC terms, red means you have not completed either of your two experiences, yellow indicates that one of your experiences has been completed, and green gives you the OK to graduate because you have completed both of your LBC experiences!

In order to complete an LBC, students must spend fifteen hours or more completing their experience to ensure that the learning opportunity has effectively been applied. Students should look at the time they spend fulfilling their experience as a learning opportunity, which will allow them to walk away with more than just the words to write for their reflection paper, but a hands-on experience that gives students a real world connection. Students should feel that they have contributed to the outside world that is beyond college after the completion of their experiences.

Interested in starting your LBC experience? The Learning Beyond the Classroom office is located on the second floor of the D.J. St. Germain Campus Center building across the hall from Residence Life. A fun fact about the LBC office is that they are soon relocating up the hall from their current location. For future references, the office will be located by Career Services.

The LBC office staff and student assistants are a warm and welcoming crowd who are looking forward to answering any and all questions you may have about fulfilling the requirements for your LBC experiences. Remember, green means go! Seniors, your LBC applications must be submitted to the LBC office NO LATER THAN FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2013! Good luck!

Underappreciated TV: "Boston Legal"

By: Andrea Melone

You don't have to be a law student to appreciate the wild television show "Boston Legal." While the title "dramady" isn't correct, it's fitting enough for the comedy with a very serious edge. Outdated though it is—as a show that ran through the 2000s—the cases are extraordinary and still very relevant, and I think it's outrageously underappreciated.

The show features two fantastic protagonists, best friends Denny Crane and Alan Shore. Although the show focuses most on Alan, Denny Crane—played by the infamous William Shatner—attracts the most attention as the name partner of the firm who always refers to himself by full name, and even uses it as a tagline: "Denny Crane. Still undefeated." He's known for his conceited but humorous overconfidence; such self-centered personalities are typically given to the disliked characters, but with him, it's hysterically funny. He's also serious, however, particularly about the issue of Alzheimer's disease, which he fears he has, but which he blames instead on Mad Cow Disease. Alan (James Spader) is brilliant, bold, and bizarre, known for his unbelievable stunts both in the office and the courtroom. He has a remarkable ability to win the seemingly un-winable cases, usually with eloquent, provocative closing arguments. He's also my favorite character: the way he so passionately can convince his audience why his clients are innocent in remarkable circumstances always inspires me.

Denny and Alan are very opposing politically (Denny the republican, Alan the democrat, which separates them on several cases), including frequent arguments, one even leading to a paintball fight in the middle of the office; nonetheless, they are perfect for one another. They understand each other, while the rest of the firm puzzles over their various crazy tricks. Every episode ends with the pair sitting on a balcony, smoking cigars and drinking scotch after a long day. They go on fishing trips in Canada together, wear matching flamingo costumes on Halloween, and even have their own sleepovers (although Denny, the homophohe, struggles with this a bit at first). Although their relationship is purely a platonic friendship, by the end it borders on them being a couple.

The cast includes a collection of original characters, each lawyer having his or her own unique eccentricity. For instance, I love the quirky, awkward Jerry Espenson (Christain Clemenson), a dazzlingly bright lawyer who struggles with socializing; Shirley Schmidt (Candice Bergman) is almost regal as the female name partner who has the most respect of all of the lawyers; I always laugh at the ridiculous commentary of Catherine Piper (Betty White at her best, I think); Brad Chase (Mark Valley) is stubborn and daring, yet has very timid moments; there are even some memorable judges, such as Judge Clark Brown (Henry Gibson), with whom Alan often banters, with the judge often flustered by Alan's candor. Between the five seasons, the show accumulated a solid crew of fantastic characters.

"Boston Legal" also has a tremendous plot in each episode, in the various court cases. While a lot of cases may seem to be obvious, often the actual scenario makes you consider your viewpoint again. I often struggle to decide which side of the case I support, because both have exceptional points. No matter how passionately I stand on some opinion, there always seems to be strong evidence to sway me. The cases themselves are incredibly interesting: some of my favorites include issues of cannibalism, bestiality, assisted suicide in Hurricane Katrina, Christians and Wiccans teaming up, even an attack on the US military. The issues are touchy and edgy, and focusing on the details of each makes them tough. The lawyers

Continued on page 6

Opinion & Sports

The problem with Valentine's Day

By: Hannah Berling

"Love is the only shocking act left on the planet." – "Valentine's Day," 2010

December 26 Some people call it the day after Christmas, but it is really the day when stores start getting stocked with a little too much pink. Within weeks stores transform aisles that were once adorned in red and green into aisles with so much pink you may wonder if a family of My Little Ponies exploded.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy some of the cute stuffed animals that come out for Valentines, and I have been caught still handing out juvenile cardstock valentines adorned with pictures of puppies, or in my case the cast of Glee. The problem is this pink transformation that makes a simple aisle at Wal-Mart look like you are walking in to Victoria's Secret acts as yet another reminder that I'm still single.

Jessica Biel's character Kara had it right in the movie "Valentine's Day." She threw an "I hate Valentine's Day" party, complete with a heart shaped piñata that was to be smashed with a baseball bat. But alas, even Kara finds love by the time her Valentine's Day comes to a close. Heck, even Taylor Swift finds herself in a stable relationship in that movie, and we all know that's not easy for her. So what does it actually take for someone like me to be given a stuffed bear even one tenth of the size that T-Swift is given in that movie?

I don't even need a teddy bear. A flower is a nice gesture. Heck, I am a fan of a good ol' fashioned hug. Or if other people who do have a significant other to celebrate with want to give back to me and all the other singles, just be mindful of those around you who go through their day as normal.

Other holidays don't have the power to make people feel like this. Even if no trick-or-treaters come to your door on Halloween, you have a whole bucket of candy to eat by yourself. If no man comes to you on Valentine's though it looks strange for you to sit alone and eat the entire box of Whitman's Sampler yourself.

One of the worst parts is that we condition children at a young age that they need to have someone in their life for Valentine's Day. I was eating a box of conversation hearts the other day (hey even us single folk still like those, plus my mom sent them to me) and what did my hearts say? One said "chase me," as if that isn't conditioning young girls to think they constantly need to have boys following them around. Another heart uttered the statement "oh boy;" I don't even know what to make of this one. Is it implying that "oh boy this Valentine's Day will be fun because I have a man in my life"? Or maybe it is saying, "oh boy!" You know, the exclamation I utter every time I have to walk past a happy couple on February 14. Either way, I'm not sure it is what kids need to be exposed to through candy.

Let me be clear about one thing: if anyone out there does want to be my Valentine, I am ready to embrace the holiday. I do like chocolate, I love stuffed animals, and I give killer hugs. Until I get my Valentine though. Until then, I am taking the stance that Jennifer Garner's Julia has in "Valentine's Day," "It's like the universe saying, look, remember when you were fourteen and you had cystic acne and braces and you played the saxophone in the marching band and no one would invite you to the winter formal? Well nothing's changed."

So, men of the world, here I, along with dozens of other single gals sit, waiting for you to change our minds and turn Singles Awareness Day into the Day of Love.

Boston Legal continued from fifth page

of Crane, Poole & Schmidt have a habit of attracting the more unusual cases.

Like the characters, the show itself has little quirks that make it stand out. For instance, characters will occasionally "break the fourth wall" and reference the fact that they are in a television program, casually referencing next week's episode. It has a funky, bouncy theme tune that is impossible to get out of your head; it doesn't have words, so just the "bow bows" beat through your mind. I commend writer David E. Kelly also for Denny Crane - known as Captain Kirk from "Star Trek" - who will in a few instances reference the show.

"Boston Legal" is phenomenal; it stands out. While some young viewers might not understand some of the humor - which includes various sexual encounters and comments - anyone over the age of sixteen could find a lot to appreciate in it. The show is a brilliant combination of perplexing issues and hysterically funny characters. Although it ended in 2008, TV Land and Ion Television will sometimes play re-runs. Plus, our own D'Amour Library has the entire show on DVD. Really, if you want a smart show for once, you should just check out a couple of episodes. I bet your you'll be impressed.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are Thursdays @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 105

Men's and Women's Basketball Coaches bring awareness to cancer efforts

By: Rob Guiry

It's not often you can sit in the bleachers of a college basketball game and comment to yourself "Hey, check out those fresh kicks on coach over there," but if you were in attendance of either the WNE Men's or Women's basketball game on Saturday, January 26, you could've said exactly that.

Men's Head Coach Mike Theulen and Women's Head Coach Nicole Chaszar, along with their respective staffs, engaged in the annual "Coaches vs. Cancer Suits and Sneakers Awareness Weekend" during their Saturday matchups against Nichols College. All coaches, including Nichols' coaching staffs, were dressed in their usual professional attire while their feet were adorned with the unusual pairing of sneakers. This odd combination is meant to bring awareness and support the effort against cancer.

Coaches vs. Cancer is a strategic partnership between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Their "Suits and Sneakers Awareness Campaign" is just one of the many avenues in which they work to raise awareness and funds. Coaches vs. Cancer's goal is to "Help people with cancer today and to find cures to end the disease tomorrow." To date, they have raised over 87 million dollars for use by the American Cancer Society.

It is a proud day to call yourself a Golden Bear when you see the University stepping up to support a cause that has effected so many. All of the ticket sales, as well as additional donations, were donated to Coaches vs. Cancer and fans were invited to "like" the Coaches vs. Cancer Facebook page and follow their twitter account (@ CoachesvCancer).

Fans were also informed that if they would like to make an additional $5 donation to Coaches vs. Cancer directly, they could do so by texting "COACH" to 20222. Each text between January 21 and April 9 enters you to win courtside tickets to the 2013 Coaches vs. Cancer Classic, hosted at the new Barclays Center (home of the Brooklyn Nets), or other autographed gear.

It was also a good day for the Golden Bears on the court as both the Men's and Women's teams put forth a valiant effort in Commonwealth Coach Conference action. The women's team earned a 46-42 home victory, while the men, unfortunately in defeat, scored a season high 92 points in a fast paced, action filled game. Despite the loss, the men showed a lot of heart climbing back into the game after a 16 point halftime deficit.

*Award for Best Sneakers: In my personal opinion I have to go with Assistant Women's Coach Dave Proulx on this one. Classic black Nikes with the white swoosh. Simple. Classic. Great choice.

Sports

NHL sports agent speaks at WNE about career

By: Sarah Wiles

National Hockey League sports agent, Jay Grossman, spoke to students, faculty, alumni, and the general public at Western New England University about a world view on being a sports agent. This discussion included such topics as the profile of an agent, hockey overseas, and the negotiations during the recent NHL lockout.

Grossman, who spoke on January 30, 2013 in Sleith 100, as part of the "For the Love of the Games" speaker series, talked about the high demands of being a high profile sports agent, explaining that the agent must be there for his or her clients virtually twenty-four hours a day. They provide such professional services as contract negotiations, financial advice, tax preparation and advice, promotional endorsements, marketing, and social media. They also assist clients in their personal lives. Grossman referenced the 1996 film "Jerry Maguire" as a fairly accurate portrayal of a sports agent's life.

Grossman said that a law degree was not necessary to being a sports agent, especially with such prestigious sports management programs today. He emphasized the importance of having an education rooted in something, whether it be law, business, or accounting because, he stated, "you need to bring something to the table that's going to be really valuable to the client."

He also discussed some of the qualities that make a good agent: being personable, up to date with current knowledge, familiarity with contracts, and a strong set of unique skills. One set of skills that he emphasized in particular was being well versed in other cultures, since many players come from overseas.

More and more players are being trained overseas, as hockey continues to grow in places other than North America. Grossman explained that he sees players now who have just as much experience abroad as they do in North America. A league that is growing in particular is the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL)—a league based in Russia—which has grown significantly in the last five years, according to Grossman. The KHL had even more popularity during the NHL lockout that was just recently resolved.

Grossman shared that the negotiations during the lockout were extremely challenging. Living in close proximity to Donald Fehr, Executive Director of the National Hockey League Players Association, allowed Grossman to have meaningful conversations with Fehr prior to negotiating. Throughout the process of negotiating, Grossman said that the Players Association staff was good with keeping him informed, as well as trying to determine what was meaningful for the players.

Grossman also shared that the lockout resolution was interesting because a decision could have been reached in November, but the players held out until mid-January. By doing so, the players gained a position of strength, and were able to make some significant financial gains.

"Though the owners didn't show the players much respect, I think the players came out of the negotiation with their heads held high. I think that's important to them, and I think they are proud players—I mean, if you worked hard enough to be a National Hockey League player, you have to have a lot of things going for you, other than just talent," Grossman stated.

In many ways, the lockout seems to have benefited the NHL market. Normally, as Grossman explained, the NHL is projected to be a $3.3 billion business. This season, even being almost 40% shorter, is projected to be a $1.9 billion season, which is proportionally much more than in years past. Maybe, starving fans of what they wanted for so long will turn out better for the NHL in the long run.

Jay Grossman has more than twenty years of experience in professional hockey, and he is currently the president of Puck Agency, LLC. His clients include the highest paid player in 2012 - New Jersey Devils' left wing, Ilya Kovalchuk, and highest paid goalie Nashville Predators' Pekka Rinne. Grossman began his career as a video analyst for the New York Rangers, Edmonton Oilers, and Vancouver Canucks. He got his start with legendary coach Herb Brooks in 1985. He has worked internationally representing athletes from the United States, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Russia, and the Czech and Slovak Republics. Grossman is an honors graduate of Union College in New York, where he played hockey and also served as a graduate assistant coach. He received his J.D. from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in New York City.

This speaker series program was sponsored by the Western New England University College of Business Center for International Sports Business, with support from the Alumni Association. Founded in 2007, the Center for International Sports Business (CISB) is a forum for the study of sport business with an international focus. The CISB hosts "For the Love of the Games" to bring outstanding personalities in sport and business to Western New England. Additionally, they organize conferences and seminars focusing on the business of sport and its impact on the global economy. For more information on the Center for International Sports Business, please visit www.wne.edu/cisb.

SAAC puts athletic based programs in place

By: Alissa Doiron

International dodgeball will be held in the HLC from 9-11 on Friday, February 22.

"The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) will partner up with United and Mutually Equal and The Civility Leadership Team to help the event," says Women's and Men's tennis coach Coach Kolins, also the SAAC and Civility Leadership Team advisor. There will be a DJ, and food from local places around Springfield.

It is an adventurous and intriguing experience in which all students on campus can engage, as Coach Kolins says, "celebrates the various cultures of the members of the WNE community."

Each team will choose a country that they would like to be their team name. It begins when teams are made of about 6 players, and want to be the best and most creative dodgeball team on campus. This is a good way for people to meet new friends and possibly find a sport that is a good, common interest.

This is just one of the many events that the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) puts on through the year.

Student Athlete Week is also coming up April 8 through the 14. This is a time when the athletes at WNE are recognized and honored throughout the campus community.

"Last year," Coach Kolins states, "Ms. Sirdeaner Walker came and spoke to the entire student-athlete body and had a tremendous impact on them about the negative effects of bullying by expressing how her son took his own life because he was bullied."

During Student Athlete Week, there are many events similar to Ms. Walker's talk, and multiple games on campus that students can go to in supporting the athletes and sports of interest. This is a fun and easy way to get involved on campus, and possibly earn extra credit or bear points simply for attending. These games are truly amazing, and provide precious memories for students.

Interested in sports?

Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears? Have a knack for journalism or writing in general? The Westerner would love to have you! We are looking for any students who have an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write one WNE sports related article per issue. If you are interested, please contact us at westerner@wnefclubs.org or join us at one of our meetings held every other Thursday at 8:00pm in Rivers 105.

Western New England University
Home of the Golden Bears!

Good luck to all winter athletic teams!

Sports

Even fourteen hours away, Australian Open followed by many WNE students

By: Michael Masciadrelli

It's a new year and a new tennis season. Fourteen hours away from Springfield, MA, the Australian Open welcomed in the best tennis players from around the world to compete in a two week tournament. While we are dealing with the frigid temperatures of winter, thousands gathered in the summer heat down in Melbourne, Australia, to watch their favorite players fight and sweat for the prestigious first grand slam championship.

Most of the tennis matches played in Melbourne are when we're sound asleep. One student on campus went against the odds and stayed up to watch many of the matches. Charlène Bertein, an international student and tennis fan from Paris, France, enjoyed watching the tournament, despite it being so late here.

"It's a very special tournament due to how it's very hard to follow. It has very special weather, but very hot and hard conditions," said Bertein. "I always watched the matches live, three in the morning here, which made me tired all the time."

This was the 101st time the Australian Open determined both the male and female champions in singles and doubles. During the day matches, temperatures skyrocketed to over 100 degrees causing some players to receive medical attention while on the court. Some players weren't bothered, like Great Britain's Andy Murray, who trains in similar hot conditions by practicing in Miami.

The sport of tennis requires a strong physicality, which is often overlooked. The only offseason for professional tennis players runs from early November to early January. During this time, players can't take much time to relax because this is the longest length of time to improve their game and get stronger for the season. The Australian Open kicks off the new year of professional tennis and is the first look to see who improved from the previous year. It's known as the grand slam of Asia and the Pacific and brings a unique multi-cultural experience, where many fans bring flags of their favorite players.

Novok Djokovic competes ot the Austrolion Open
Image: Australianopen.com / Ben Solomon

The physical aspect of the sport plays an important role for the players and how they train, especially for grand slams, because they may have to withstand playing at a high level pace for 2, 3, or maybe 5 hours. The Serb and defending champion, Novak Djokovic, found himself in an epic battle against the Swiss player, Stanislas Wawrinka in Round 4. Djokovic was victorious after almost five and a half hours when he broke Wawrinka in the 22 service game of the fifth set. He ripped off his shirt in excitement, similar to what he did in last year's championship final against Rafael Nadal.

"These are the matches that you live for, you practice for," said Djokovic during an interview. "You want to be on the centre court and playing on such a high level for five hours. It's incredible."

Number one in the world and top seed, Novak Djokovic, came in as the favorite in the Men's Singles to win his third straight Australian Open title. On the women's side, many felt Serena would win her third consecutive major (she won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year). One of these players made history, while the other fell in disappointment.

On the men's side, the top seeds below Djokovic included No.2 Roger Federer, No.3 Andy Murray, and No.4 David Ferrer. They all reached the semifinals without much trouble. Charlène noticed how the draw positioned certain players.

"I love French players Richard Gasquet and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, but it was terrible for me as they were all in the same part of the draw and had to play against each other," said Bertein.

Last year's runner up, 11-time major champion Rafael Nadal, withdrew from the tournament due to a stomach virus. He hasn't played since June last year, where he suffered a knee injury in a second round lost at Wimbledon. Sophomore Pre-Pharmacy student, Dom Brzozowski, believes this impacted the rest of the draw.

"With Rafa out, it made both Ferrer's and Murray's road to the semifinals and beyond that much easier," said Brzozowski. "It definitely left a void in the draw."

In the semifinals, Djokovic faced off against David Ferrer in an extremely lopsided match. Djokovic looked invincible, defeating the Spaniard in less than two hours, proving how hard it is to beat him on the hard courts in Melbourne. The second semifinal, between Roger Federer and Andy Murray, provided a much more thrilling result. Murray emerged in five tough sets, and it was the first time the Scot beat Federer at a major.

This set up a rematch of the 2011 Australian Open between Djokovic and Murray, as well as a rematch of the last grand slam final of 2012 at the U.S. Open. They split these two matches, Murray winning the U.S. Open, while Djokovic beat him in Australia two years ago. In the beginning of the final, it looked as if Murray may knock out the defending champ after taking the first set in a tiebreak. This all changed in the second set.

Murray had three break point opportunities in Djokovic's opening service game of the second set, but failed to convert any of them. The second set moved into another tiebreak and at 2-2, Murray had a crucial mental lapse. Before winding up for his second serve, a feather from a bird came down in front of him. Naturally, he bent down to move it off the court. He then went back into the service motion and double faulted, giving Djokovic the free point. This was a major turning point of the match, which led Djokovic to seize the momentum and win the second set.

Djokovic became much more confident, while it seemed Murray was still thinking of his missed opportunities of the last set. Djokovic finally found a break at 4-3 and served out the set, winning it 6-3. Murray never could get back on track and Djokovic went into cruise control breaking Murray twice in the fourth set. The final score read 6-7(2), 7-6(3), 6-3, 6-2 and gave Djokovic his third consecutive Australian Open title and fourth overall. No one in the Open era (1968-present) had accomplished three consecutive championships in Australia.

The major highlight on the women's draw was the quarterfinal between Serena Williams and upcoming American, Sloane Stephens. Serena won the first set in quick fashion, 6-3. However, this would be the last set Serena won in the tournament. Stephens stormed back and won the second set 7-5 and beat out a frail Serena who injured her back, 6-4 in the decisive set. Sophomore business student, Thomas Cowin, thought positively about the result.

"To see Serena fall to an American younger than her for the first time was big for American tennis. Perhaps the start of an exciting transition period for tennis in America," said Cowin.

Despite Stephens' triumph over Serena, she was knocked out by defending Australian Open champion and World No.1, Victoria Azarenka, in the semifinals. Li Na of China, shocked World No.2 Maria Sharapova in the other semifinal winning in convincing fashion, 6-2, 6-2.

The final between Li Na and Azarenka included fireworks, two injury timeouts by Li, drama, emotion, and in the end Azarenka being handed the trophy. Li won the first set 6-4, but couldn't keep up the pace against Azarenka losing the next two sets, 4-6, 3-6.

Both previous champions defended their titles at this year's Australian Open. Brzozowski wasn't too surprised by this result.

"I thought this was expected. I did enjoy watching both matches and were exciting finals. Good job to both winners for repeating again," said the Pre-Pharm major.

The first grand slam event of the year lived up to its expectations and should spark a fantastic year of tennis.

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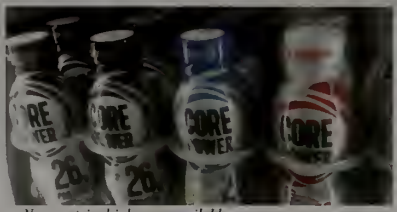
Please e-mail:
westerner@wneclubs.org

Energy drinks vanish from campus shelves

By: Andrea Melone

As of the end of the fall semester, ARAMARK has discontinued its selection of different energy drinks on the Western New England campus due to concern. The studies linking energy drinks to deaths posed a liability, and after the last of the drinks were sold, such beverages were no longer on the shelves of the POD, the bookstore, or Subway.

Students had mixed reactions to the change. Junior Sarah Wiles, for instances, stated, "I only drink energy drinks when I feel like I need an extra boost, so not having them accessible on those days is an inconvenience, but I understand their reasoning."



New protein drinks now available
Image: Spencer Ives

"I am a huge energy drinker. NOS is like my coffee and now I have to walk all the way to Sunoco instead of standing in line at the pod for my jolt like everyone else," stated junior Adam Burger.

"I feel that energy drinks are a substance that are overlooked as far as their detriment to an individual's health," stated junior Spencer Ives. "I have personally seen the types of physical and behavioral issues that arise from a severe caffeine dependence, and I think it's a good decision that they are starting to make energy drinks less available on campus. It doesn't appear to me to be about limiting student's options as much as looking out for their general welfare. I'm glad the university is taking an interest in the rising issue of caffeine addiction."

However, this is not a recent issue: students, staff, the Peer Education Network (PEN), and the Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Committee—which is a cross-department group comprised of students, staff, and faculty—have expressed concern previously.

Roger Roberge, Food Service Director, stated, "It's a liability. I think it's a moral obligation since there have been deaths associated with the drinks."

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The painting rock continues to sit dormant

By: Hannah Berling

Many students have started to notice that Western New England's beloved painting rock is still promoting an event from December, RHA's Grilled Cheese Night, having not yet been painted this semester.

Many clubs on campus have had the painting rock booked through the Event Scheduling System over the past month; in fact, it has never not been booked. Yet, the rock remains dormant with an event from December still being advertised, an advertisement that is confusing people on tours.

"We talk about how it is painted weekly by a club for a big event coming up, and literally like every family has been saying, 'well that was in December,'" stated senior campus tour guide Allie Lombardi. "You have to really beef it up and be like, 'yeah this is what happens and in spring time it's really cool, it hasn't been painted now because it has been cold with Nemo,' we have been using every excuse."

The painting rock
Image: Spencer Ives

For some clubs on campus winter storm Nemo was a reality, rather than an excuse, as to why the rock did not get painted.

Cassandra Deal, a representative of RHA, explains why the rock did not get painted for the annual Dream Date auction, even though they had it reserved to paint.

"What happened was the weekend it was supposed to be painted was the weekend of Winter Storm Nemo, and so our chairs decided there was no point in painting it if it was just going to get snowed on and wasn't going to dry and that sort of thing. The following weekend was Dream Date, so they decided that four days before the event there is no sense in trying to paint."

Reasons are unknown as to why other groups have not been painting the rock when they have it booked. Some have said it is an issue of not having the paint or supplies to do so, while others report not having the man power to help.

Lombardi admitted to being part of an organization that had the rock booked for an event, yet left it unpainted. She said she has no idea as to why it did not get done.

Watching the unchanging rock as a tour guide, she is afraid of the future it holds. "I feel like a tradition is dying," she said.

Continued on page 3

News

Random acts of kindness spread across campus

By: Alexandra Carter

Meghan Mackenzie, Gabby Ruggiero, and Rachelle Fecteau performing an act of kindness
Image: Gabby Ruggiero

Students at Western New England University have been organizing events in hopes of encouraging random acts of kindness on campus.

On December 14, 2012, the world was shocked by the tragic school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut that left twenty-six children and adult staff members dead.

To honor these victims, the Southwood Resident Advisers and Southwood Hall Council organized an event called 26 Acts of Kindness for Sandy Hook. Each day, an act of kindness was given out to every Southwood apartment. Each kindness represented one of the victims of the Newtown tragedy. The act of kindness was related to something that that person enjoyed.

For example, Random Act of Kindness #5 was in honor of Olivia Engel, a six-year-old victim. The event organizers passed out a card with her photo and a short biography, which read, "Olivia Engel loved her stuffed animals, especially her stuffed lamb. She loved to dance, play tennis, and play soccer. Olivia loved drawing and her favorite colors were pink and purple. Please enjoy this play dough and remember what it was like to be a first grader for a day. Take a minute to remember Olivia Engel and the rest of the Sandy Hook Victims. How will you pay it forward? Love is Stronger than Hate." A ball of play dough was included with the card.

One of the organizers of the 26 Acts of Kindness for Sandy Hook, Gabby Ruggiero, helped run the event because she is from Newtown and saw the tragedy firsthand.

"While I was at home in the days following the shooting, everywhere I would go around Sandy Hook there was different acts of kindness being done to let the people of my town know that these victims will not be forgotten, and a little something was given to put a smile on your face. After receiving numerous acts of kindness I knew it was something I wanted to bring to the Western New England University community, so I brought it up to the Resident Advisers of my building and they liked the idea and made it what it was," said Ruggiero. "Rachelle Fecteau was the one that really took the idea and made it what it was. Caitlin Tefft was the point for this event, and she did a lot of hard work and research to make sure the acts of kindness we were giving out were accurate."

"By doing the acts of kindness I was just hoping I could help keep the memory of the victims alive. I wanted people who didn't know the children and the teachers to realize these were real people, with big dreams, their whole lives were ahead of them and they all had families. I remember receiving my first act of kindness while I was home and the feeling of knowing that a complete random stranger that you've never met before was just wanting to make your day a little bit better even though they may not be able to understand what anybody was going through at that time. That is what I wanted to achieve. I wanted to bring joy and kindness to someone; you never know the struggles someone else is going through, if a simple smile can make someone's day imagine the impact of 26 days of random acts of kindness," said Ruggiero.

Sophomore Kara Moriarty, who also helped host the event, said that her favorite part was "that we learned something new about each child and that we were able to keep their memories alive." She also said that the Southwood residents appreciated the event. "Many of the residents went out of their way to say they have been reading the cards everyday and that they were keeping them up in the room to be able to look at them daily."

The Southwood 26 Acts of Kindness for Newtown event ended on February 28. The event organizers hope that the themes of their event will continue to resonate.

Community Action Rewards Everyone (C.A.R.E.) is also hosting an acts of kindness event, "Send Some Love." This event was inspired by the national organization, More Love Letters. Throughout the month of February, C.A.R.E. created and collected an assortment of cards. These cards had inspirational messages, such as "I hope your day is going great," "Best of luck in life," and "You are loved." They had collection tins for the cards at the circulation desk in D'Amour Library and the Law School Library. They also had letter and card creation sessions, such as planned gatherings in the campus center and a craft table set up at the Class of 2014's Wings Over WNE.

These cards have been handed out since March 4, and will be until March 8, to the campus community. C.A.R.E. will have a table in the Campus Center from 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and 12:30p.m.-1:30p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, so that students, faculty, and staff can grab a letter or card.

"This week in March is typically around midterm time but it's not quite Spring Break, so it's a good time to make sure everyone gets a pick-me-up, via these cards," said the Hunger and Homelessness chairperson, junior Molly McKenna, who organized the event.

"I want to cheer people up. I know so many people who are either under-appreciated or have been having a hard time staying in a good mood lately. Everyone deserves to be reminded how important they are, regardless of how perfect or imperfect they really feel they are. I know when I am having a bad day, all it takes is a verbal hug, so-to-speak, from someone I know; just someone saying something that makes me feel better. If I can give just one person who is feeling down a note with the words they need to hear, then the campaign has done its job," said McKenna.

C.A.R.E. collected over 300 cards and letters for its Send Some Love campaign.

Random Acts of Kindness Week was February 11 through February 17. In honor of this week, Student Senate secretary, senior Marimar Escoto, organized a program to encourage people on campus, particularly the senators, to spread kindness.

"I found it online and decided to come up with my own acts of kindness and post it on the senate door. I figured it would be a way for the senators to get to know more individuals by being kind and following the guidelines for the week," Escoto said.

She hung a flier on the door that described different kindness tasks for each of the different days. These tasks included smiling at five to ten people, giving someone a hug, writing a letter to someone, and complaining less and appreciating more. During their weekly senate meeting, Escoto initiated the acts of kindness exchange by handing out bags of candy to the senators, and then asking them to pass on the act by having each of them write a letter to someone who has made an impact on their life. These tasks were designed to encourage people around campus to be kinder to one another.

Jessica Perez, a sophomore senator, said that she enjoyed the letter writing session so much that she wrote two additional letters. "One to all of my friends back home and one to my grandparents who are no longer alive. But it really opened up my eyes and I noticed how much I truly missed my grandparents and all my friends, and if it weren't for them I probably wouldn't be where I am now."

"This program was a great way to encourage senators to think about the impact of their actions on others. My hope is that they can spread this awareness around the campus, and everyone can start to think about how profound of an impact kindness has on each other," said junior Sarah Wiles, Vice President of Student Senate. "I am happy see that other organizations are trying to create this awareness as well."

Throughout campus, programs such as these are encouraging the Western New England community to practice random acts of kindness.

News

SONY announces Playstation 4

By: Matt Amann

SONY excited gamers when they announced that their new gaming console, the Playstation 4, will be hitting stores by the end of 2013. The announcement was made on February 20 at a press release in New York City while millions watched.

The PS4 seems to be extremely powerful, having an x86 architecture (which is common in most PCs). The console also supports a whopping 8GB of RAM, and the processor is an AMD that will have eight x86-64 cores.

"The console is basically a supercomputer," stated senior Chris Samuel when looking at the specifications for the gaming system. The PS4 also has a "suspend mode" which allows players to immediately begin playing a game without the lag time for taking the console to start up. The "suspend mode" puts the console into a low power state that allows instant access for the gamer when they come back to the system.

A logo for the new PS4
Image: gengame.net

The console is extremely powerful and will be able to keep even the avid gamer happy. The new controller is similar to the DualShock 3 that the PS3 has, but with some added features. The new DualShock 4 has a touch pad in the center of the controller which can also be pressed and clicked. The controller will also feature an "Options" button that will act as the "Start/Select" buttons on the current PS3 controller.

The final new feature that is the most interesting is the addition of a "Share" button. The "Share" button allows players to re-watch the past few minutes of gameplay and create a video that they can then post on the internet.

"I feel that having the ability to share videos is pretty cool, and a nice way to brag to your friends when you do something really cool in a game" said freshman Freddie Schiro.

Anxious gamers await the release date for the Playstation 4 and unfortunately, SONY has not released a prospective price on the gaming console; only time will tell the future of the PS4.

Seniors: Be a Part of the Commencement Slideshow

Don't miss your chance to be a part of the slideshow that appears on the big screen during Commencement. The Office of Marketing and Communications is looking for digital photos of seniors that reflect your experiences living and learning at Western New England University. From Bear Tracks to studying abroad, fun with friends to University traditions, we want to capture what made your experience unique to the Class of 2013.

Send photos that would make mom and dad proud to wnepix@gmail.com.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining the Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meetings are Thursdays @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 105

Energy drinks continued from first page

Lore Detenber of Alcohol and Drug Education Services explained that they were responding to opinion that has been prevalent for years. She referred to PEN's efforts to discourage such prominent displays and promotions of energy drinks back in 2011 in a letter to ARAMARK. Also, she cited a professor who expressed concerns about his students who would come to exams without sleep having studied all night, running on energy drinks.

"We're not in favor of banning," Detenber said, "but we want as much as we can to educate students about making informed choices."

As sources such as "Bloomberg.com" wrote pieces such as "Energy Drinks' Health Danger Being Probed by U.S." which was published on November 27, and which went into the FDA investigating Monster Energy Drinks' potential health risks, Western New England appeared to really take notice. They responded to several calls regarding the heavy promotion of the energy drinks so recently questioned as dangerous, particularly right before finals. The "Great Energy Kick!" Monster Energy Sampling ARAMARK had scheduled in the P.O.D. for December 5 was cancelled, instead offering V-Blast Vitamin Water samples.

"The advertising is so prominent, especially around finals, and it felt like it was really being pushed," Detenber stated, "let's not buy into it." In response to ARAMARK's changes, she said, "I think they're making a really good effort."

Roberge went on to describe how ARAMARK's decisions are made regarding the product selection they purchase. "We ask students what they like. We're always open to suggestions. We try to anticipate based on market trends, stay ahead of the trends, as well as keep a track record of what other universities buy, the top 50 items. We use that to determine some of the products we buy."

Although the caffeine-based energy drinks have left the shelves, they're beginning to offer a new kind of energy drink that's protein-based instead.

Sources such as Livestrong.com and Mayoclinic.com show studies indicating unpleasant side effects that can accompany the caffeine, including anxiety, irritability, and restlessness. While the energy boosts may be helpful for students cramming to get work done, some of the negative side effects can interfere with the expected fluctuation in energy.

"It's doing exactly the opposite of what you want it to do," Roberge stated.

"We don't want to go overboard and exaggerate the risks, but you should know your body and how it's going to affect you," Detenber said, encouraging students to educate themselves.

ARAMARK has made some other changes as well; however instead of removing all these products, they have been expanding on some. For instance, they have widened their ice cream selection based on what they believe people want to buy.

"Our goal is to service a thousand people a day, and to make every individual happy," explained Roberge.

Although the decision may not have been wholly supported by students, ARAMARK was concerned with students' health. While some current items may be discontinued and spark some disappointment, new products are frequently brought in, so be sure to see what's new in food and drink selections on campus.

Painting rock continued from first page

If a club is unsure if they have the painting rock booked for an upcoming event, they should stop in and ask Campus Events to see if they are responsible for the use of the rock.

The painting rock has been used since 1968 when it was placed on campus as part of a prank. In order to not let a tradition die, CAB's Spirit committee is hosting "Cover the Rock" on March 27th, an event that will bring the campus community together to paint the rock for the first time this semester.

"We want to get as many people as possible to have the opportunity to paint the rock," stated Alexandra Dean the committee chair. "I hope that this event will get people in the spirit of painting the rock weekly once again."

News & Entertainment

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Improv troupe goes to Boston conference

By: Kaylene Hersey

Western New England's popular Improv on the Rocks troupe attended a conference from February 21 until February 23 called Improv Boston.

"The whole purpose for attending Improv Boston is to gain the experience of being able to improvise with other troupes and to have professional critiques so that we cannot only improve our skills but also learn new skills and games to bring to our shows back on campus," said junior member Matt Johnston.

On the first day of the conference, they had a 20 minute showcase. This essentially was their basic show like they do for the school, just in a shorter amount of time. After that, they did several pun game competitions. These included games such as ABC's, 185, and Yo Momma.

The following day, they had the short-form competition. Short Form Improvisation is the form that they generally perform at shows such as the Two-Line Vocab and Late to Work.

Saturday was their busiest day. They started off the morning with workshops. The team split up and, in pairs, they attended different workshops. Some of the workshops were Musicprov, Character workshop, and Improv Boot Camp.

Improv on the Rocks
Image: Nate Szymanski

"What I learned in boot camp was how a lot of people think about what to say while on stage, but the beauty of improv is when you say the first words that come to mind and just become embedded in the scene," said Johnston.

After the first workshop, they all attended a presentation about improvisation post-college and then they attended another workshop.

"My favorite part was the workshops. You get to improvise with other actors that you normally would not interact with. It was very refreshing," said Improv on the Rocks' president, Nate Szymanski.

The last part of the competition was the long form competition. This is the form that they have the least amount of experience with, but with the help of their coach, Pete Overzet, they were able to pull it off.

"He restructured our long form style, which lead to us earning more points than we would have," said Szymanski.

The Improv Troupe, which just had a show this past Friday, March 1, also has shows on April 13 and May 3, which is the Alumni Show.

Ebony Food Fest and Gospel Concert

By: Kaylene Hersey

While most students were eating at the Dining Hall on February 21, there were a select few students that gathered in Rivers Arena for some Southern comfort food and great gospel music.

From 6:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. on Thursday, February 21, the United and Mutually Equal club (U & ME) celebrated Black History month with their annual Ebony Food Fest and Gospel Concert. At the Fest, there was not only traditional southern food, but there was a slide show, showcasing many famous people and moments in Black History. Since this year is the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, the students of U & ME performed the speech.

"I liked the addition of the 'I Have a Dream' piece and for next year, I would want our students to do something that is related to Black History," said Yvonne Bogle, Director of Programs and Services.

Both the performance of the speech and the slide show were brand new additions to the Festival. Ideally, Bogle wants to expand on this aspect for following years so that not only members of U & ME, but also audience members, can learn important moments in Black History.

After the performance of King's speech, guests and members of U & ME ate delicious food and were entertained by some great gospel performances.

There were five performances altogether and at the end of the night, each group was able to come back on stage for encore performances. The first performance was Ms. Evenus Thompson.

"My favorite part was when [Thompson] left the microphone halfway through the song and sang the rest of the song by going around to all the tables in the audience and I was able to hear her clearly. She demonstrated her passion, her talent, and her soul," said sophomore U & ME member, Enrique Elizondo.

The other groups that performed were the Iglesia Apostolica Renovacion, the Wesley United Methodist Church choir, the Canaan Baptist Church choir and lastly, the Alden Baptist Church.

All the music was very entertaining and extremely moving. The vocals were impeccable and overall, the audience loved it.

"For me, the best part was the combination of listening to soul music by the church choirs and the solo artist and the delicious southern food served at the event," said sophomore U & ME member Mike Mascidrelli.

Entertainment & Features

Back Bay Guitar Trio lunchtime concert

By: Alissa Doiron

On Tuesday, February 26, the Back Bay Guitar Trio came to the D'Amour Library for a lunchtime concert. I find it amazing how musicians can alter a piece to transform it into a trio. This group focuses on each particular part of their different notes so that all the differences come together, creating beautiful music. The music they play has been dubbed "timeless," a term with which I certainly agreed.

The Back Bay Guitar Trio
Image: Backbayguitartrio.com

Their music easily captures the audience because the songs were mostly warm-weather themed. The first song was from Brazil, and it instantly brought Mozart composition to my mind. There were loud and slow notes that contrasted with the soft and quick ones. The second song, also from Brazil, sounded like a lullaby tune that was very harmonious and mellow. I imagined looking into a waterfall in the distance as the summer sun sets behind it, reflecting on the water.

I noticed the heads of some audience members nodding to the commonality of the repetitions. Sometimes, I caught David (one of the players) humming the tunes with the guitar to keep the proper cords and keep concentration. Through their experiences, they all distinguish their own ways to get the song out in the most beautiful fashion possible.

Next, the Back Bay Guitar Trio moved into Argentina. This music was similar to that of the tango. The cords were strong, loud, and frequent, including banging on the guitar and clean cord changes. This tone made me picture dancing on the warm sand on a tropical beach.

It was amazing that although the music may become quick and difficult to play, the three musicians, David, Sharon, and John remained confident, and they were having the times of their lives. They don't play for the money, they don't play for the fame; all three of them play and teach music because it's something that they love to do and want to spread their talents to pleasure others.

The next song that was played was written by a WNE alum called *Letter to Sarah Jane*. This song had a tune to draw in the listeners, assuring them and putting them at ease. This was a very positive piece, created by the soft, repetitive, clean notes. This song could have been playing at the ending of a movie with a happy ending because it is a very touching and personal piece.

There was another piece called *Drunken Marionette*. This was a more mischievous piece from improv nights that John used to be a part of. The piece was upbeat and playful, adding to the enjoyment and happiness displayed on his face.

John and Sharon had performed a duet called *Jongo*. This song was long, and included much banging on the guitar. The banging truly caught the full attention of the audience and created a different form of their talent. I was a little nervous at times that one of them were going to bang so hard the guitar would break! This song made the audience want to get up and dance, and many members of the audience were nodding and tapping as if they were going to join the band.

I conclude that the "timeless" act of the concert was the fact that the songs were relevant to the listeners and can take them anywhere. These songs easily took me out of my seat and placed me on the beach! The songs took the audience out of reality and allowed them to create a vision for themselves through the music. This was so magical that I did not want the music to ever stop!

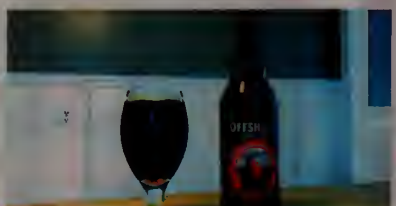
To audience surprise, John will be teaching guitar classes on Tuesday nights here at WNE in the near future. If you are interested in more information about these most talented musicians, all are encouraged to visit their website.

Offshore Ale Company's Beach Road Nut Brown Ale

By: Chris Principato

Though traditionally English, North American brown ales have been home brewed since the American Revolution and have recently grown in popularity and production within the last 100 years. Offshore Ale Company's Beach Road Nut Brown Ale may not be the same warm ale our forefathers drank during the fateful years surrounding 1776, but we have had over two centuries to perfect the brew and invent the kegerator, or at least figure out the recipe for ice. Within the last two centuries, the US has been through a lot and through all of those wars, elections, blue laws, dry towns, dry campuses, and dry states, Americans have continued to brew their own beer based off of the same recipes our forefathers used. To think a version of the brown ale we now drink was probably enjoyed by every U.S. president from Washington to Obama, there is nothing more American than enjoying the malty elixir which is brown ale.

Offshore Ale Company's Beach Road Nut Brown Ale is brewed in Martha's Vineyard Mass., and follows a recipe George Washington himself would be proud of. This brown ale's approach is warm and inviting. A malty, nutty, and rich aroma entices the drinker to immediately switch their experience from scent to taste. Upon first sip, the approach does not disappoint and a gentle malty sweetness is apparent but quickly evened out by a nutty and bittersweet chocolate finish. Beach Road Nut Brown Ale is a pleasant full palate experience from start to finish. A nut-brown ale was actually my first craft beer and is what turned me onto the microbrew experience. I highly recommend this brew to anyone new to the microbrew lifestyle and to the connoisseur who is looking for a mild to rich flavor in their libations over the hoppiness found in an IPA. Due to its rich flavor, alluring approach, and pleasant finish, I am giving Offshore Ale Company's Beach Road Nut Brown Ale four out of five beers.



Offshore Ale Comany's Beach Road Nut Brown Ale
Image: Chris Principato

4/5 Beers

Great food pairings for this Nut Brown Ale are smoked meats such as sausage or salmon. The rich flavor of the brown ale married with the nuttiness of smoked meats is an experience fit for a man of presidential stature. Though you may not have Obama's private chef to pair this brew for you, Offshore Ale Company is also a brewpub. I recommend visiting them in Martha's Vineyard, Mass. and having their trained chef prepare the ultimate beer pairing experience for you. Please remember to enjoy Beach Road Nut Brown Ale responsibly and to take time to enjoy the local fare.

Note: All students consuming alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

Features

Creative Corner: An original piece written by a WNE student

By: Robert Gilchrist

The Westerner is incorporating an original story in segments. This is a continuation of the story included in last semester's issues. Look for part 7 in the next issue of the Westerner.

Jason and the Golden Fleece: Part 3

It was shortly after eleven PM that Medea had received the call from the police commissioner. They had received word of an attack on her father's building, a bomb having gone off in the lobby of the building. He would keep her informed with info as he got it.

After he hung up, Medea went over to the television that sat in the corner of the room and turned it on. She didn't even have to change the channel, as it was breaking news that overrode all other regularly-scheduled programming.

"The attack began shortly after ten-thirty this evening, when the main level of the Xenian Hotel was bombed," reported the newscaster, who was apparently standing in front of the scene of destruction and chaos. "Eyewitnesses report having seen someone head into the building shortly after the flames of the initial blast cleared. While there has been no confirmation from the local authorities, it is believed that the perpetrator of this act of terror is the vigilante known as Jason. We'll keep you updated with…"

Suddenly a loud crash could be heard on the screen. The news reporter looked up, and her face turned into a façade of shock.

"Good lord, it seems… it seems as if someone is *falling out of the building!*" she exclaimed. The camera suddenly panned up to show something falling from the sky, surrounded by shards of glass. Just then someone else leaped out of the building, swooped down and grabbed the falling body.

"My god, it seems as if…I can't really tell from this angle…it looks like the hero Perseus has swooped down and grabbed this falling individual. He's flying him to safety! But…it seems now as if the two seem to be struggling in midair, as if…as if this person doesn't want to be saved."

The camera remained focused on the two struggling figures, as they swerved and zigzagged across the night sky. But as soon as the whole event began, it ended. The two figures were seen crashing into the adjacent building to the hotel, and direct view of the figures was lost.

"Why, that was really quite a scene we just witnessed," said the newscaster as she faced the camera once more. "We're now getting reports that a team of police, as well as a collection of heroes, has entered the building to go after this vigilante. It seems now as if the police are forcing us back to create a perimeter around this building. We'll be bringing you up to the minute coverage of this story until its conclusion."

And with that, the broadcast switched back to two talking heads who began debating the merits of the heroes and whether they were to blame for this aggressive and violent vigilante. Medea chuckled to herself, thinking about how she should have told Jason to be stealthier to avoid this kind of media circus. But she knew he wouldn't have listened. Not the way he was acting. Before she could sit down though, her phone rang.

"Hello, Miss Medea? This is Orpheus, from the Daily Scroll. I was wondering if I could ask a few questions about your father."

"I'm sorry sir, but right now is not a good time," she began, but Orpheus cut her off.

"Are you aware that the vigilante Jason has gone after him? Are you aware that he may have done so because of your father's connections to certain… unscrupulous third parties?"

"Mister Orpheus, I'm sorry, but I really can't talk right now…"

"Ma'am, what do you know about your father's connection to the syndicate known as the Titans?"

Medea stopped. Suddenly a thought had occurred to her. A way to bring her father down once and for all. She had originally thought of going to the police, but who knew which of the top brass were in her father's pocket. No, this was better. Crossing to her laptop, she checked the wireless connector that the flash drive had installed in it, the one she had given Jason. It was active. She had access to her father's computer.

"Mister Orpheus, how would you like to run the story of the year?"

After beating down Perseus to ensure he wouldn't follow him, Jason fled to one of the higher levels of the building he now found himself in. Glancing out one of the windows, he saw a large policed force gathered around the building, effectively sealing him off. Why hadn't he thought the senator would have a panic button in his office? Because he was only thinking of getting vengeance, that's why. And now he might never get it.

As he made his way to the stairs, Jason heard a group clambering up to his level. Jason ducked down a hallway and hid in a deserted office. Just then he heard voices out in the hall.

"Let's check this floor. You two take that hallway, we'll take down here." Jason crouched low and pulled his last weapon from his shoe, a small dagger that wouldn't be any good in a fight.

"Clear your men out," came a voice nearby. Jason recognized it as Pelias, a captain in the police department. "You heroes are only turning this into a circus. Someone's going to get killed because of it."

"Maybe you should clear your men out," retorted another voice. This one was more recognizable to Jason; it was the voice of Theseus. "This madman has killed at least seven of you norms, and hospitalized even more. We should be the ones to handle it."

The two continued to bicker, but their voices dropped lower and grew fainter the further they went from Jason's hiding place. After several minutes, Jason left the room to find a way out of the building. But as he turned the corner, he was hit by something.

After he stopped sliding across the floor, he came to see that he wasn't hit by something, but someone. It was Iolaus, and he held a knife to Jason's throat.

"I'm taking you in dirtbag," he growled. "You've done enough to ruin our image in the public eye." Just then, something changed in his face. It was almost as if…he recognized who he was threatening. He stopped, and his eyes grew wide. It was then he knew who was beneath the hood.

"Uncle…Heracles?" he stuttered.

To Be Continued…

Review Early Submission Ad

Attention all writers and artists of all kinds! The Review of Art and Literature would like to inform all students who will be returning for the upcoming academic year that it is not too early to start submitting for the 2013-2014 Review book. Just send your stories, poems, scripts, and anything else you think worthy of being in The Review to wnereview@gmail.com or bring your art pieces to the Review's office, Rivers 107. Don't hesitate, submit today! Make sure to include your name, major, year, and the title of your piece in your email. Please see current Editor-in-Chief Cassandra Deal, or any member you know within the club, if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to receiving your art and literature!

Features & Opinion

T. Miller, slam poet, comes to campus

By: Spencer Ives

In the heart of the campus center on Thursday, February 28, Campus Activities Board's Diversity and Alternative Entertainment (DAE) Committee hosted a poetry slam starring Natasha T. Miller, a poet who has consistently ranked among the top five of female slam poets in the world.

The one thing that was undoubtedly notable about T. Miller's performance was the absolute sense of presence. In her opening, she adeptly showed that she understands being on stage, how to work with a crowd, and how to get the audience involved. While her poems covered a broad range of serious and thought provoking topics, like the top 10 themes in the last decade of her life and the line between a girlfriend and a woman, T. Miller lightly and seamlessly tossed out comedic points between pressing poetry.

T. Miller with CAB
Image: Rachel Savitt

T. Miller presented her poetry in a performance that was beautifully clear, fluid, quick, hard-hitting, and coherent. She embodied a supreme ability to convey each thought, idea, or image with the honest emotion that is refreshing to see performed, giving an example of the feelings that might lie behind any page of poetry while at the same time not becoming overwhelmed by that and being able to present herself, and her poetry, with utmost clarity.

Beyond presenting herself through her poetry, T. Miller also presented all of herself, giving students the opportunity to ask questions to her directly, anything from the topic of race in the slam poetry field to whether or not her bowtie was real.

After the performance, CAB's DAE Chair, Gennah Borg, commented highly on the choice of performer. "Her performance was a very unique one to bring to campus and it drew such a diverse crowd." Borg went on to further discuss what really stood out about T. Miller's presence, "she touches on issues that relate to our students."

This view was reflected in the appreciative opinion students had of T. Miller's performance. A.J. Frustaci commented: "I loved it.... Slam poets give such an upbeat feeling; slam poets can take subjects you don't normally associate with love and give it a new light."

T. Miller herself was willing to share her thoughts about what performing is like in a college atmosphere. "It's an amazing experience to come to colleges and present myself to the leaders of tomorrow... and that the people who will run the world next are getting to know me now."

Slam poetry, which, in its essence, can be a difficult matter to pin down to any one definition, no matter whether one is trying to talk about what it is or what it does. One thing is clear from this performance, that no matter what one's thoughts are on slam poetry, Natasha T. Miller gave a spectacular performance that this campus was fortunate to have hosted.

The state of athletic inspirations

By: Hannah Berling

With the recent news of Olympian Oscar Pistorius and the shooting of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, one begins to wonder if it is safe to find inspiration and role models in athletes anymore.

I know that celebrities who people look up to outside of the sports world also falter, but the recent string of athletes on the decline makes me wonder. This year, athletes such as Pistorius, Lance Armstrong, and Alex Rodriguez have fallen down the inspiration ladder. Although it seems as though it was not the case for Pistorius, steroids are at the root of the issue for both Armstrong and Rodriguez.

I followed Pistorius this summer during the London Olympic Games. The "Blade Runner," as he came to be known, inspired everyone by running alongside notable track athletes with his two prosthetic legs. He gave hope to so many people, and now he awaits trial in the murder of his girlfriend. He admits to being the one to shoot her, but claims it was an accident, mistaking her for an intruder in their home. Personally, I see many faults within Pistorius's story. I find it hard to believe that he never realized his girlfriend was not in bed when he thought an intruder was in his home, and I also wonder why he proceeded to shoot when the "intruder" was locked in the bathroom. In any case, Pistorius has quickly gone from an inspiration to a possible murderer and his fan base has fallen immensely, I am sure.

Lance Armstrong admitted to doping during his Tour De France tenure, something that hurt the most notable name in cycling in more than simply his fan base. Armstrong's Livestrong campaign is also faltering, as people have trouble backing an effort put forth by someone who admittedly cheated in their sport.

Alex Rodriguez is being advised by media sources to not return to baseball after he rehabs from his current hip surgery, following reports linking him to steroid usage. While these reports have not been confirmed, the highest paid player in baseball is certainly taking the heat from the baseball fandom.

When did we enter into this world of sports where we have to constantly check our athletes for being honest and loyal to their sport? Is it still safe to have children look towards athletes as role models? The obvious answer is yes, as the ratio of athletes doing good compared to those who have faltered is promising. The problem is that now, high profile athletes with a large fan base have to be even more careful in the public eye as it seems people are looking for problems within athletes' personas these days.

There are then the athletes who overcome their problems and still inspire the people around them and continue to be looked at in a positive light. I myself, am guilty of sticking by athletes who have messed up in their lives.

I am a huge Josh Hamilton fan, and let's be honest, Hamilton's faults are part of what make him such an inspirational story. Overcoming addiction and becoming one of the best hitters in baseball is a story than many people have been drawn to. Last year, before the start of the season, Hamilton fell off the wagon. I recall being furious, so angry that someone who had overcome addiction could just fall back into old ways when he knew so many people were rooting for him. Then Hamilton apologized, he said it was a one-time thing and that it never should have happened. Baseball season started and all was forgotten, Hamilton hit 43 homeruns in 2012 and everyone, including me, still loved him.

I am also a huge Michael Phelps fan. We all know where this is going, the infamous "picture" (if you don't know, go look it up). A kid who the world watched dominate the Bejing Olympics was photographed in a moment of weakness and many people (including sponsors) took a step back, lost respect, and no longer looked at Phelps the same. I have continued to adore Phelps just as much. Why? The apology.

THAT is what I can value in an athlete. Someone who will step up and say "yeah I messed up," someone who will say "yeah I let my fans down," and someone who does that immediately. Armstrong may have apologized, but it was too late. Rodriguez needs to step up quick if these allegations are true if he wants to save his image. Pistorius is sticking by his "accidental killing" story, something that could hurt him even deeper if found guilty.

So, it isn't that athletes are all bad people. And it isn't that athletes aren't allowed to make mistakes. One wrong turn does not make someone less of an inspiration unless they do not deal with it sincerely and in a timely manner. There is a reason people still wear Hamilton jerseys to games, and why the world still watched Phelps in the pool in London. So Oscar Pistorius, if you did murder Reeva Steenkamp on purpose, do the right thing and just say so.

Sports

Sports Marketer from Singapore Ken Berger visits WNE

By: Michael Masciadrelli

At 9:00a.m. on a chilly Monday morning in mid-February, sports marketer Ken Berger stopped by for a visit at Western New England University to give a presentation on his career in international sports business. The lecture room on the second floor of the Center for Science and Pharmacy building became center stage for an insightful presentation about sports, media relations, marketing, and setting oneself apart in the job market.

Professor Curt Hamakawa, Director of the Center for International Sport Business, introduced his friend Ken Berger. Hair sleeked back, wearing a charcoal sweater, Berger brought a professional attitude to the room, facing an audience of about 75 people.

Currently with his job, Berger works on setting up hospitality packages with business partners at major sporting events, like the FIFA World Cup, UEFA Euro, and the French Open. As the founding director of LiveSports, he has exclusive rights to sell these events in Singapore. Working in this company requires much of his time as he travels from one place to another. He provided the WNE students in attendance some advice on how to find success after graduating.

"In terms of careers, get the right job. Don't worry about the money, and everything else will follow suit," said Berger. "At your age, I strongly recommend volunteering your time doing internships."

Ken Berger grew up on the islands of Hawaii, but decided to attend college at the University of Colorado at Boulder. His hard work ethic paid off and built a network while he was at school. He was able to make a connection at the media conglomerate, IMG where Berger first got his foot in the door with sports marketing. He's worked in Korea, Hong Kong, Japan for 13 years, and has worked in Singapore since 2011.

In his presentation, Berger laid out the key components of sports business; the media, sponsorship, licensing and merchandizing, and lastly ticketing for properties. All the students and faculty inside the room were focused, rarely taking their eyes off Berger, as they sat absorbing the information like sponges. Berger finds one aspect in particular important when it comes to careers in sports.

"Sports careers in particular are all about personal relationships. I encourage everyone early in their careers to go abroad, before you have a family or kids. Open your eyes and see the world. By going to places in Asia like Vietnam, or China, it makes it that much easier to get a job. It provides even more possibilities and chances to make connections," said Berger.

In the world of sports business, Berger acknowledged how Americans have received a bad reputation. Berger expressed his concern, but believes it still doesn't discount possible success.

"Americans have a real bad rap right now. We are viewed as being ethnocentric, looking at the world with only their prospective and poses a real danger," said Berger. "However, still be proud to wear the American flag over your shoulders when going abroad."

Berger later mentioned to the fascinated crowd of students and faculty members the advantage to those who can speak a foreign language. Being fluent in Japanese was a major reason why he landed a job so quickly after college over in Asia. Whether it's being fluent in Japanese or even Spanish, having the ability to speak multiple languages can provide a competitive edge when applying for a particular job, particularly in sports business.

"It's important to know how to distinguish yourself, and one way is to know another language," said Berger. "By facilitating another language, it improves the look of your resume and is a way to better sell yourself to an employer."

In the beginning of Berger's career, he admitted that he had little pay at first. But after dedication and years of hard work he received the job for IMG in Asia, which was important for his career. He emphasized the importance of starting out small to build relationships with employers.

"If it's working for free for companies like Disney, or Nike, I strongly recommend taking the opportunities as their given. Don't underestimate the power of the platform and credibility of the organization," said Berger.

Many students who filled the seats of the lecture room were business students. Whether it was finance, marketing, or sport management this speaker related directly to what's being studied in the classroom. Sophomore business student Alex Joslyn, usually had class at this time with Professor Hamakawa. Even though attending the presentation was mandatory, Joslyn took a lot away from Berger.

"It was interesting to learn how he worked 15 hour days and still almost lost his job once his company was bought out", said Joslyn. "He obviously has a tremendous work ethic and the advice he gave us to put as much in as you can, will lead to success is what I will remember the most."

Joslyn reflected on Berger's message about building a network in the field of sport business.

"Being able to develop networking skill is vital as it is anywhere. This will only lead to partnerships as well as discovering potential new clients just as he has done throughout his career," said the accounting and finance major.

Berger's inspiring presentation on February 18, 2013, will be remembered by the Western New England University community for years to come. Soon enough, those same Western New England business students will be embarking on their own careers where they will be surely taking Berger's words of wisdom wherever their future may lead them.

Spring Event tickets are available to full-time undergraduate students now for $5!
Tickets are being sold online with a credit or debit card on the new University Tickets system.

Buy yours now! Simply scan this QR Code on your smart phone or visit wneu.universitytickets.com

Chiddy Bang and Karmin LIVE!
Friday, April 12th, 2013 at 8 p.m. in the AHLC

(Tickets will be available to all other students, faculty, staff, and guests for $10 beginning on Monday, March 25, 2013.)

Western New England University: Home of the Golden Bears!

Good luck to all athletic teams!

The Official Student Newspaper of Western New England University

The Westerner

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Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Western New England welcomes artist's work on Deliso lawn

By: Andrea Melone

In an effort to represent Western New England's interest in art and sustainability, the next feature artist to showcase his work in the Art Gallery, James Kitchen, presented his unique recycled metal sculpture titled "Einstein's Onion," for the Official Campus Unveiling April 8 on Deliso lawn.

Kitchen's primary piece, the sculpture occupying a space beside the gazebo on Deliso lawn, is a form of art made of welded scrap metal, each of which are from local farms, antique stores, or from neighbors, making it environmentally friendly, as it is made of reused material. His work is also nature-based in the sense that he lets nature take care of it; he does not alter or treat the material, but lets it rust naturally.

James Kitchen's sculpture, "Einstein's Onion," on Deliso Lawn
Image: Spencer Ives

President Anthony Caprio first spotted an article on some of Kitchen's other work in Springfield, and approached Beverly Dwight, the Vice President of Advancement, to reach out to Kitchen to present his artwork at Western New England. Kitchen responded quickly, and agreed to display some of his pieces

Continued on page 2

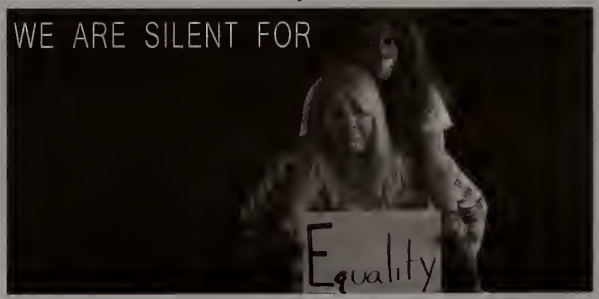
GSA asks students, "What are you silent for?"

By: Courtney Ciavarella

The Western New England University Gay/Straight Alliance will be hosting their annual Day of Silence Campaign from April 15 to April 19, with the National Day of Silence being on April 19.

The Day of Silence is a student-led national event that brings attention to anti-LGBT (Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender) name-calling, bullying, and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBT behavior by illustrating the silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBT students and those perceived to be LGBT. It was founded in 1996 and is now the largest student-run action towards creating safer school environments, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

This year, the Gay/Straight Alliance is focusing on the personal story behind what YOU are silent for. All throughout the week, you can use the Twitter hashtag #WNEDoS to share your personalized story about why you are participating or your experiences on the Day of Silence. There will be tables in the Campus Center throughout the week of April 15 to the 19 with sign-up sheets to pledge your participation.



Students Courtney Ciavarella and Melani Butcher pose for Day of Silence photoshoot.
Image: Andrew McGrath and GSA

Even if you cannot be silent for the whole day, you can still participate! There will be post cards for people who stop by the tables to write down what or who they are silent for and place them anonymously in a box. These post cards will then be shared aloud at the Breaking of the Silence event on Friday, April 19. T-shirts and Pledge Packs will also be given out to supporters and participants to wear on the National Day of Silence, April 19. Posters will be featured around campus of people who participated in the photo campaign a few weeks prior.

Also during the week, there will be a guest speaker Bill Briggs on Thursday, April 18 in the CSP, room 200, at 5:00pm. Then, The Breaking of the Silence will take place on April 19 from 3:00-5:00pm in the Senate Chambers.

Come and let GSA know what you are silent for!

News

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Artist continued from first page

both in the Art Gallery and on Deliso lawn.

At the unveiling ceremony of "Einstein's Onion," Caprio spoke to the piece that "we've been so fortunate to receive here." He then presented the "Artistic License" Kitchen drew up, allowing him to "be creative any way," Kitchen's way of allowing himself creative liberty on his presentation.

Kitchen used such creativity to bring music into his talk. He then brought out his guitar and harmonica, inviting Barbara Moffat—Vice President for Marketing and External Affairs—with maracas to join him on the podium. Together, they performed Kitchen's song "Just A Little" for the crowd, written for the campus about students, classes, art, and philosophy, even referencing President Caprio's excitement for Kitchen's artwork.

"Part of being an artist is not being afraid of making a fool of yourself," said Kitchen. On his own, Kitchen is in a band called James Kitchen and the Appliances.

"He's a riot," said Art Gallery curator and art professor Patricia Jenks. "He's so much fun!"

During his talk, Kitchen spoke to his interest in Einstein. He mentioned curiosity watching a segment about Einstein on Nova, when he "fell in love with him." "Einstein said 'imagination is more important than knowledge,' and that's where I really connected with him." He explained "Einstein's Onion" and its story, referencing the "layers of all that he was trying to balance," by creating a layered "onion." "It's kind of what a school does." He then joked that it's his response to the question, "What was he thinking?"

"Excitement is happening on this campus," Dean Harte-Steffes said appreciatively as she closed the presentation and talk.

After its release to the campus, "Einstein's Onion" will continue to be exhibited as an outdoor non-permanent installation piece.

"It's great to see such an interesting intersection of sustainability and art," stated junior John Arvanitis. "The fact that the university is willing to celebrate a piece like Kitchen's shows that perhaps we are taking both art and sustainability seriously on campus."

"We have a strong desire to have art very present on campus, and this was a wonderful opportunity," stated Caprio. "We're thrilled."

One of Kitchen's other works includes a large-scale, thirty-five-foot tall bird sculpture, permanently installed in downtown Springfield, also made of all recycled metal scraps.

Soon, Kitchen's other artwork will be on display in the special Art Gallery exhibit from April 14 to May 18, and on April 25 in Sleith Hall room 100, he will speak for an Art Gallery Talk.

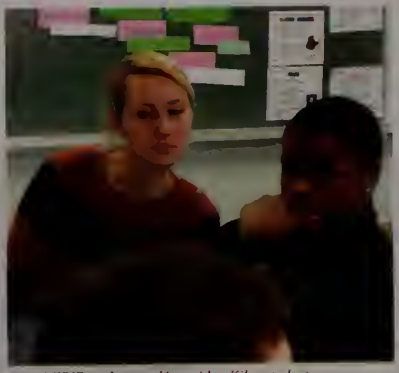
Kiley Middle School students interact with WNE

By: Spencer Ives

Over the past semester there have been students proving an absolutely crucial point about education: looking inward towards the exclusive community of college students near you is not the only place for stimulating intellectual discussions. Through a Literary Horizons course, students from Western New England University have been intellectually engaged with eighth grade honors students from the nearby Kiley Middle School. This interaction has culminated in a grand visit of the middle school students to our campus on March 28.

Throughout this semester, there has been a continual back and forth conversation between these two classes, all mostly focused around the discussion of Homer's "Odyssey." This collaboration was done, largely in part, through online work in groups focused on either creative work, discussion, or art, all focused on different representations and aspects of Homer's "Odyssey."

The course, by design, was intended to be a literature course. Though, because many of the students are education majors, the course became education-oriented, leading to the interactions with Kiley Middle School. Through this, there is a symbiotic double benefit to the course. The college students get to perceive a text in many different ways and learn what it is like to assist younger students in the apprehension of what could be considered quite an inaccessible text. At the same time, students of Kiley's eighth grade honors class get the opportunity to learn and interact with college students, possible role models for their potential future in higher education.



A WNE student working with a Kiley student.
Image: Lisa Drnec Kerr

On March 28, Kiley students came to visit our campus, tour our university, and present on some of the information from the online collaborations to both their fellow Kiley students as well as the Literary Horizons class.

In responding to what the class has achieved through the semester, Professor Drnec Kerr, of the Literary Horizons class, said "working with the Kiley Middle School students on Homer's 'Odyssey' proved to be a very direct way of instantiating the central themes of the text: exploration, hospitality, and homecoming. Perhaps we could have covered more ground secluded in our WNE classroom, but we couldn't have managed such an in-depth experience without the opportunity to work with these eighth grade honors students."

Molly McKenna of WNE, when asked about the whole process, responded to the excitement of seeing younger students actively engaged, "It was really great to see how excited the kids were when they visited the campus.... it was refreshing to see how much they cared about doing well in school."

Student of the Literary Horizons course, Ryan Crowell, well summarizes the intended outcome for students of the class: "I feel like I might have helped some people and gained a perspective in my own right." He has helped students entirely separate from our university achieve a better understanding of a text and walked away from this experience with unique first-hand knowledge of what working with students is like. Beyond simply what the classes accomplished between them, Crowell expanded to what a partnership such as this might mean in a greater context, "It's good to have a connection between schools, it fosters a sense of community between school systems."

ENTERTAINMENT

Don't change, Stageless

By: Spencer Ives

Last weekend, on April 5, 6, and 7, the Stageless Players performed their spring musical, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," a production they have been working on throughout the semester.

The sheer amount of choreography, synchronization, and harmony needed to incorporate the voices of more than 15 singers on the stage at the same time seemed like quite an impressive feat.

Despite the healthy length of production of almost two months, with their initial audition occurring just after winter break, on the evening of one of their last rehearsals, it was not all stress on the set. Even through the pressure of the upcoming production, the Stageless Players still maintained an ability to have a great time on stage, making each other laugh in between scenes and practice. Some of the actors gave the impression that the rehearsals closest to opening night are some of the most interesting. Sophomore Jonathon Pierre, when asked about what the final process of putting the whole musical together has been like in the last nights of rehearsal, fondly said "We've been working a lot on our own scenes and now, this week, get to see it all come together."

The entire cast of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" gather together
Image: Deborah Savoie

The musical itself was both outrageously funny and shockingly relatable. The style was also quite unique, containing many short skits giving glimpses into the very separate personal lives of different couples. Though some scenes may have embellishments of fantasy, with trios of pizza men singing a chorus to a girl who has met a new guy, some truly gave a beautifully real image of what life in the dating scene is like. In the first act, actors freshman Bobby Caruso and sophomore Danielle Johnson perfectly represented sexual tensions and the feeling of taking tenuous steps in the beginning stages of a relationship and the euphoria of seeing its potential. There are other scenes that fall in between the staunch reality and the fantastical, such as with actors in a wedding scene being glared down upon by their friends and family as they musically recited traditional values and societal standards of what marriage should be like.

There was a great sense of humor permeating the whole set. Even the musicians took an interlude to bounce comically out of place measures off one another and acting frustrated with one another in a slapstick style, making the audience laugh.

On the whole, it seems that the play was fantastic for both sides of it, for the audience as well as the performers. When asked what working on a musical has been like, junior Christopher Quigley from the Stageless Players responded, "I love it. Singing on stage is one of the coolest things; taking liberties and commanding the room."

Audience member Alex Carter later reflected, "the musical was really good. It was very funny and sweet and it was obvious that the cast and crew put much effort into the performance. It was very entertaining- the audience was laughing the whole time."

After this semester's production fully concluded, Professor Hillary Bucs, reflected "This musical was such a joy to work on because I had an amazing team of actors and crew members who gave their very best at every rehearsal and every performance. In addition, 'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change' is the perfect example of the power of collaboration. I was so grateful to work with a talented choreographer, Katelyn LaValley, and musical director, Larry Picard. I am looking forward to what we all can accomplish next year."

The production certainly hit its mark from all angles, it went out with the intent of being wonderfully funny as well as realistically relatable. Now one only needs to wonder what the Stageless Players will do for their next dazzling production.

WNE Review of Art and Literture's annual Festival of Art

By: Alissa Doiron

On Friday, April 5, The Review of Art and Literature held their 5th annual Festival of Art in the Rock from 9pm-11pm. These events are good ways to become involved on campus and just have some clean, hard fun with friends, drinks and snacks included. Bear points are also available for those students who are in need; come to the Rock for an event!

During the festival, there was a table for artwork contests and submitting art pieces. There was also a poetry workshop contest where people were welcomed to cut out words from magazines and create a poem. Winners would get their art published in the next year's review. This was a new activity and one with which every participant had fun.

Spring event tickets were also being sold. Hurry up and buy your ticket because they are going quick!

Matt McLaughlin and Frank Maturo of the band "Simply Unprepared" were definitely prepared to entertain. The hilarious band name fit this duo perfectly. They put on great entertainment, creating the feeling that I was at a professional concert.

They were so energetic and "ready to rock," playing music ranging from "The Lion King" and The Beatles to more recent music like Fun.. Their contagious energy made this a great show to attend.

I spoke with Chelsea Gray and Shannon Phillips, two members of the Review of Art and Literature, who talked about the great times they have in the club. "Last year," Chelsea began, "there was a poetry troop and some belly dancing to express the various types of arts."

Although a little different, this year still blew minds away with Matt and Frank, artwork, and poetry contests, etc.

Shannon stated "I like the arts and crafts portion of the event because it allows people to express themselves." Chelsea continued, "It is fun to see what creative ideas people come up with." This year was more performance-based than years past.

There were raffles done throughout the night, which also contributed to the energetic vibe. The audience was so excited and anxious to win. This was a great way to get everyone involved.

Karaoke was the last hour of the event, during which each participants gained raffle tickets with each song sung. This was another opportunity for everyone to get involved besides the other activities. What's better than that?

I am on the field hockey team, and it fits me perfectly because I like to work out and be a part of a loving, crazy, fun team. If you are more on the artsy side and want to play music or act in the play, or even help set up events, a Friday or Saturday night at the Rock is your ideal place to be. I don't know what else you would want to do on your weekend nights other than go to events at the Rock Café.

ENTERTAINMENT

Music review: Carly Rae Jepsen's album "Kiss"

By: Frank Maturo

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, what's blasting through your earphones? If not your earphones, then the flamboyant music enthusiast's standing/sitting next to you? If they enjoy pop branded music then I suggest Carly Rae Jepsen's 2012 album "Kiss." Yes, the same girl who hit it big, or at least most people think hit it big, with her single "Call Me Maybe." Her full length album goes deeper than love at first sight, and even gives a lesson in biology (you'll see!).

If you pop (ha pop like the music get it? Yeah, yeah, I know this isn't a comedy column) in the CD and let the first track roll, you get a light hearted beat amplified into a smooth transition with heavier bass sets and electronic distortion for the lead track "Tiny Little Bows." The song is soft, yet powerful as Ms. Jepsen issues a symbolic message regarding travel and the effects of city life on a young adult's interpretation of our 21st Century. Moving from tying bows and loving travel comes one of her latest singles, "This Kiss." "This Kiss" packs a punch as the beat gets you out of your seat and strutting across your Gateway apartment, in my case, quite literally. Kissing is fun, no? Especially when it's something you "Can't resist," so why not sing out about locking some lip? One thing I do credit Ms. Jepsen with doing very well is applying her lyrics to her target audience. My guess is she's looking to impress and influence youngsters between 15 and 23? The 23 may be a little old as she does have this soft innocent tone to her voice. "Call Me Maybe" does sound as if a younger woman, I'd say 16 is chasing an older, say 18-20 year old, man, but still the music gets the dancing fuel flowing! "Call Me Maybe" focuses on exactly what our pop culture encourages: going out, meeting new faces, and throwing out some digits. Whether or not that person calls/texts—for my readers I wish you all the best—is irrelevant to the fact that you put yourself out there and had fun doing it!

Now let's discuss the actual sound of the album. Many consider this album to be teen pop, good to know "teen" is now a music genre, and I would agree with that, but let's give more credit to Ms. Jepsen and her compositions. "Kiss" attacks pop music by offering an innocence of sex appeal with linear beat progressions that inhibit an ultimate galactic music experience with tracks such as "Hurt So Good." Many will say her tracks sound the same, and to that I say "Good!" Let them sound similar because an album needs a direction of sound, and I don't mind knowing what I'm getting myself into with music. Ms. Jepsen does give you a taste of her sweeter side in her duet with Justin Bieber on "Beautiful." This track backs away from heavy bass pop, and almost sounds as if the roots of this track came from Nashville. Carly Rae does have a country twang in her vocals, but you need to want it in order to hear it.

So that biology lesson! Welcome to Bio 101 students, I'll be your teacher this afternoon, Prof. MerkinStein! Today we shall study the cardiovascular system, very exciting isn't it? Instead of a PowerPoint, I thought music would be more fitting. (Turns on Boom Box."Your Heart Is A Muscle" comes over speakers) So kids, as we can see by Ms. Jepsen's cardiovascular research, your heart is in fact a muscle, and you must train your heart to live a healthy lifestyle! BOOM! Medical breakthrough and who's to credit? Ms. Carly Rae Jepsen! Ok back to reality folks...

Overall, I am thoroughly pleased with "Kiss" (As is my roommate at 6:00am Monday, Wednesday, and Friday! Oh yes, nothing like Carly Rae as your personal alarm clock!) Let Carly Rae's lyrics (which she writes on each solo track) and musical composition of "Kiss" give you energy to have fun and enjoy the ones you love. I give Ms. Jepsen 4/5 Headphones, for energy, applicable lyrics and overall entertainment. So give "Kiss" a listen, you might be surprised; yes guys, you too! Oh and did I mention she's beautiful? Until next time.....Rock!...well in this case....Pop!....'till you drop!

Video game review: Gears of War: Judgment

By: Joshua Mertens

"Gears of War: Judgment" is a test on the "Gears" franchise because of the company's recent loss of their lead game designer, Cliff Bleszinski, along with the decision to create "Judgment" as a co-op between the original company, Epic Games, and a fairly new company, People Can Fly. The big question it leaves is whether or not this "Gears" will be true to the franchise or abandon its roots.

The first thing a consumer should realize with "Judgment" is that a lot of the extra cooperative game modes have been trimmed from the game. This is in favor of a longer, more polished main campaign, as well as a secondary unlockable campaign; it feels more like a DLC for the predecessor "Gears of War 3" than a true addition to Judgment. In addition to these, overall there has been many control scheme adjustments and pacing alterations. The game feels and plays faster than ever in all game types. The campaign's addition of more difficulty choices is very interesting, but it feels as though, for serious gamers to still have fun playing, the varying difficulty levels are necessary.

Another cooperative game type is "Overrun." "Overrun" is the love child of the Horde and Beast modes combined into a class-based battle between the two opposing forces in all-out 5v5 brawls. The new game mode works extremely well, and I cannot stress enough the necessity of a microphone as communication is key to winning in this game mode. The Cog forces are given four different classes (Engineer, Soldier, Scout, and Medic), each with its own powers and abilities essential to holding off the opposing team. The opposing Locust team must use any of the eight different Locust troops to try and bring down three different Cog structures before the time runs out. The use of distinct classes creates a sense of panic and urgency not present in many Gears games that is a fresh welcome.

The multiplayer action in Judgment is faster than ever, with old mechanics sped up to match the faster paces of some of the newer shooters on the market. Weapons such as the Lancer and many others have lost their stopping power, allowing shotguns to once again rule multiplayer. Though some may rejoice at this change, it tends to recreate the problems of the original "Gears," where there was little to any variety in battle situations. In addition, grenades are now hot keyed to the left bumper button allowing for faster use without having to select the weapon from the D-pad at the cost of a tighter blast radius. Allowing players to free throw grenades helps to speed up combat, but at the same time it removes a lot of the strategy and importance of grenades in combat as with previous titles.

This "Gears" plays faster and feels like a breath of fresh air in the series at first, and will probably feel like a great game to most who play it. In the long run, however, I feel that it is actually a step backwards for the series, whereas in "Gears of War 3" there was a mixed diversity of starting weapons. Also, there was no one player leaving his team for the fear of being picked off, but in "Judgment" people are breaking off from team combat and going rouge with a shotgun. Power weapons don't feel as important or imposing in this game type, and I fear it will only be a matter of time until people begin putting their copies of this game on the shelf in search of another game. This game feels stuck between the worlds of the past "Gears" games, with its emphasis on team coordination and strategy, and games such as "Call of Duty" or "Halo" with their faster game play and emphasis on solo performance.

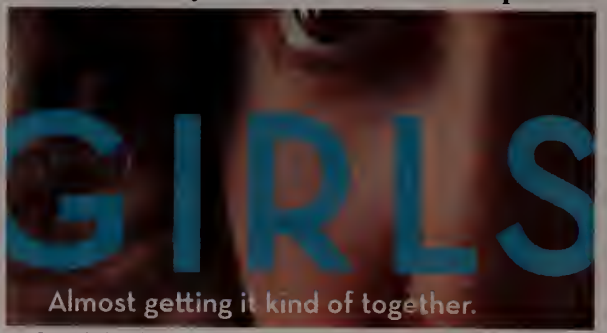
Commonwealth and Hampden's Late Night

Do you like sports and arts and crafts? Come out for a night of fun with residence halls, Commonwealth and Hampden! We will have interactive games and activities such as Sports Bingo, popsicle- stick frame making, t-shirt tie- dying to match your favorite sports team's jerseys, and perler bead magnet making to further support your favorite teams! The festivities begin at 11:00pm on Saturday, April 20 in The Rock Café! Bring your friends and don't miss out on the excitement!

Features

TV Talk: Why "Girls" deserves all its praise

By: Hannah Berling



Season 2 of "Girls" wrapped up in March, season 3 is currently filming in New York. Image: HBO

It has been a while since I have dedicated TV Talk to one show exclusively, but the time has come to do just that.

Over Spring Break, I indulged in an activity that felt so wrong, yet it felt so right. That's right, I binge watched all twenty episodes of HBO's "Girls" in just two days.

Never before have I been so driven to catch up on a TV show that I am over a season behind in, until this point. The creative genius that is Lena Dunham, mixed with the creative mind of Judd Apatow make "Girls" a beautiful, witty, gritty, sometimes disturbing portrayal of what it really means to be a struggling twenty-something year old.

The show is based off the life of four girls, all friends, and each trying to make some sort of life for themselves in New York City. There is the lead character Hannah (Lena Dunham), who is cut off from her parents financially in the pilot and left to fend for herself when it comes to her bills, something her unpaid internship won't cover. Marnie (Allison Williams), Hannah's roommate at the start of the series, struggles with love (among other things). Shoshanna (Zosia Mamet), the youngest of the group, is still in college and is the naïve "Sex in The City" obsessed flaky character. She is joined by her cousin, Jessa (Jemima Kirke), who is most easily defined as a free spirit.

Looking back at the two glorious days I spent soaking up everything "Girls" had to offer, it is hard to peg down one thing that captivated me about the show. The writing of the show has you wanting to be nothing like these girls, yet wanting to be like them in so many ways at the same time.

Unlike other shows revolving around groups of friends in the city ("Friends," "Gossip Girl," "Sex In The City"), there is a sense of realism and struggle here not often seen in television. Nothing is handed to Hannah (anymore) and no matter how hard she tries to get her parents to let her back in financially, her mom never gives in. Desperate to become a writer, and desperate to stay afloat financially, Hannah does whatever it takes to get her name out there. As we see her journey progress, we see her entering a downward spiral, hitting rock bottom in the final episodes of season two.

There is also a sexual promiscuity about the show that would normally seem so wrong, yet is handled in a way that allows any viewer to actually learn from these scenes. Let's face it, it is an HBO show; there is nudity and there are sex scenes. While some argue that the show exploits girls and makes sleeping around seem okay, I felt the opposite. First, I will advocate that seeing the turmoil the girls go through in their relationships makes me want to do anything but sleep around. As for exploiting girls, I can see that to an extent, but at the same time, I applaud Lena Dunham for doing what she does and showing a depiction of a girl of average size in these situations.

Taking a step back, the guys in "Girls" are just as eccentric and flawed as the ladies. Let's start with Adam (Adam Driver). He starts as Hannah's friend with benefits, becomes her boyfriend, her ex-boyfriend, the guy she has a restraining order against, and then a knight in shining armor at the end of season two. It is the most conflicted I have ever been about a TV couple, because for everything that seems so wrong about Adam/Hannah there is still something there that seems so, so right. Adam is weird, he never wears a shirt, he is always doing strange construction projects in his apartment, he is crude, and often disgusting. Then just like that, he calls Hannah "Kid" and you go in to "oh my god he is the cutest" mode. Quite frankly, I am torn.

The show gives you Charlie (Christopher Abbott), who starts as Marnie's boyfriend. She soon gets bored with him and they break-up, yet throughout the series there seems to be a magnet pulling Marnie back to him. Charlie is the most put together of the guys, as he launches a successful app and becomes quite rich. Abbott has decided to leave the show, so who knows what will become of Charlie and Marnie in season 3. And then there's Elijah (Andrew Rannells), Hannah's college romance who is now an out gay man. Elijah is out there, he is fun but also a little flaky. He sleeps with Marnie after his boyfriend leaves him, and then confesses that fact to Hannah, in an absolutely hilarious episode.

There are aspects of "Girls" that you hope will never become reality for you, yet there is so much that seems so plausible and real. Watching Hannah have a complete breakdown about her life at the end of season two was one of the most raw, intense, and real portrayals of human struggle I have seen on TV in a long time. There is a reason this show won two Golden Globes: it knows when to be funny, it knows when to be sad, and above all else, it is telling the story that everyone else is afraid to.

On campus fire safety

By: Officer Monica Viegas

• Never ignore a fire alarm:

Because every second counts in a fire situation, respond to every alarm as if it were a real fire. If you hear an alarm, leave immediately and close doors behind you as you go, to delay any potential for fire to spread.

• Have an escape plan:

Building evacuations are delayed due to lack of preparation and planning. Take a few minutes to devise one for you and your roommates. Remember the assembly point area in the building you are in.

• Know two exits from your room:

You always need to assume that your first most natural escape route might be blocked.

• Memorize the number of doors to the nearest exit:

You also need to assume that you may not be able to see. Know how many doors or landmarks are between you and escape, just in case.

• Never remove a smoke detector or remove the battery from them:

Vandalized smoke alarms inhibit early detection and endanger everyone in a residence hall. Most smoke detectors are hard wired and an alarm will sound in the University Police Dispatch Center if tampered with or removed. A smoke alarm doubles your chance of survival should a fire occur.

FEATURES

Creative Corner: An original piece written by a WNE student

By: Robert Gilchrist

The Westerner is incorporating an original story in segments. This is a continuation of the story included in last semester's issues. Look for the conclusion in the next issue of the Westerner.

Jason and the Golden Fleece: Part 8

"Uncle…Uncle Heracles?" muttered Iolaus as he lay on top of Jason, hands around his throat. Seizing the momentary lapse in concentration by his nephew, Jason slammed his fists into Iolaus' temples and threw Iolaus off him. While he lay on the floor dazed and stunned, Jason took off for the stairwell.

Once inside, however, Jason heard the police rushing up the stairs. Iolaus must have called them before he had tried to take Jason down. Instead of going down and trying to escape, Jason was now forced up, higher into the building.

Hearing more police coming from higher up the stairwell, Jason ducked out onto the nearest floor he could. He ran along the corridor to the main atrium of the floor, which was currently under renovation and quite bare. He made his way across the atrium to try and formulate a new plan of escape when a voice rang out.

"It's over, Jason." Jason turned to see Theseus standing where Jason had just been, sword in hand. "You've led us on quite a chase across this city. Racking up quite the body count as you went." Theseus began to inch closer and closer to Jason, who simply stood ready for anything. "But now it's time to lay down and give up." Theseus stopped and stared at Jason. "You're not getting out of this building. At least, not as a free man."

Theseus then lunged at Jason, swinging his sword upwards in an attempt to slice open Jason's face. Jason ducked and rolled, trying to avoid a confrontation. He didn't want to fight Theseus, he was a good man and hero. And he didn't have time for a long drag-out fight. He had to find an escape.

"Come on, fight back!" shouted Theseus. "You always put up a good fight against those that are weak and defenseless. So why not try a go at someone who can actually fight back?" Theseus then swung his sword again at Jason, who felt the tip of the blade slice into his jacket. Jason reached for his last weapon, a small dagger tucked in the back of his belt, and jabbed it against Theseus' armor. It left a long scratch in the black chest plate, going right through the spider web of cracks left by the bullet that struck it so many weeks ago.

"Nice," said Theseus. He raised his sword in preparation for another volley of assaults. "That's two marks you've carved in my armor. I'm going to have to remember that."

"I don't want to fight you," said Jason. "I only went after those people because they hurt the people I care about the most. Or knew how to find those people." Jason stopped and looked into Theseus' eyes. "I didn't want to hurt them, but they left me no choice."

"Do you have any idea how self-righteous you sound?" asked Theseus incredulously. "They left you no choice? You sound just like the villains we heroes have to fight every day to keep this city safe for all those people down there. And yet it's because of vigilantes like you, crazy egomaniacs who think that just by throwing on a shadowy costume and beating up drug dealers at night, you can make a difference. It's because of you that they fear us. And I'm not going to let you keep tarnishing the legacy that we've – that I've worked so hard to build." Theseus then made to strike at Jason again, when the entirety of the police and heroes who had combed the building looking for Jason came crashing in.

Jason then made for the window to jump, but a gunshot rang out and stopped Jason in mid-stride. He looked to see every gun, sword, and spear trained right on him.

"Don't do anything stupid!" shouted Pelias. "Put down the knife and put your hands on your head!" Jason, seeing no way out, threw his knife down and did as he was told. Theseus glared at him, spiteful they hadn't finished their fight. Pelias then came forward to put a pair of handcuffs on Jason, when the melodious tones of the band The DemiGods rang out. Pelias stopped.

"Sorry, sorry… my phone," he muttered. Jason raised his eyebrow and stood stock still, worried one false move would get him killed. "This is Pelias, who's this?....Good evening sir…I see sir…No, I wasn't aware of this, sir…no sir, I wouldn't think that a good idea at all…are you sure sir? I think it's highly…I understand sir…very good sir." Pelias then hung up and looked Jason square in the eye.

"So, that was the commissioner. Apparently a large collection of Senator Aeetes' files found its way to the department. Files that show he was corrupt up the wazoo. Taking bribes, extortion, looking the other way on drug shipments… the guy was in deep with the mob. You knew all this didn't you? That's why you went after him." Jason said nothing, simply stared right back at Pelias. "Well, the commish has ordered we grant you a pardon, this one time. He said that you deserve a special commendation for helping take down a corrupt city official. But since you're something of a wanted fugitive, this was the best he could do."

"So…Aeetes wasn't the mastermind?" asked Jason.

"Far from it. He was just a pawn. A pawn for someone much bigger and more powerful than himself." Jason nodded and turned away, once he was sure no one was going to shoot him. "Just keep in mind, this is only one time. If you keep up with what you're doing, we won't hesitate to bring you in." Pelias then walked away, and began ordering the rest of his men to follow him.

"And what about us?" asked Perseus. "Are we just going to let him walk away? After everything he's done?" Before Theseus could respond, someone answered.

"No," said Iolaus. "We're gonna let him go as well."

"The hell we are," said Theseus. "This man has single-handedly corroded our public image to almost what it was when we first began. People see us as nothing more than thugs, not heroes. He NEEDS to atone for his crimes."

"And he will…one day. But he did good for the city tonight. I think that earns him one get out of jail free card." Iolaus looked at Jason, who simply nodded his gratitude.

Before Theseus could protest, the other heroes began to file out after Iolaus. Finally, with only he and Jason left in the room, Theseus headed out and muttered "This isn't over."

Finally left alone, Jason knew he had to go somewhere he had avoided ever since coming back to the city. He had to go home.

To Be Concluded…

Youth gambling isn't just entertainment

By: Sean McGuire

With March Madness coming to a close, many people have been placing bets as they root for their favorite teams to make it to the Big Dance. It's more than just a game; it's a big business for gamblers.

Sports betting in particular has begun to attract the attention of a younger crowd. March Madness, Fantasy Football, or betting on the Superbowl all make gambling look appealing and entertaining to a younger audience, especially because it's available online anytime, anywhere.

Dennis Kolodziejski, Professor of Psychology, says, "Obviously, sports betting is pretty exciting. It's the same kind of betting and gambling that comes up when you're playing poker or you're doing slots, so it's not really all that different. What's different about it is for young people, it appears to be somewhat harmless and fun and there are lots of people who, when March Madness comes up or even pro football season, make it even more exciting for themselves because they have money invested in betting on teams."

You may think filling out a March Madness bracket, or playing Fantasy Football once won't hurt. However, that one time may be all it takes.

You may think gambling is just a short-term way to have fun, but it is important to realize sometimes it's not that easy. This short-term recreation can quickly evolve into a long-term habit.

Professor Dennis Kolodziejski says, "The difficulty is, the long term consequences of losing a lot don't seem to affect our current behavior very much because immediate consequences affect our behavior more than the long term delayed consequences."

He continues, "The problem is, again, with all gambling, unless something is really different about you, most gambling over the long haul is a loss. You can't win."

A gambling addiction can greatly affect you in the long run and in most cases, it doesn't have a positive outcome.

Now that your brackets are filled out and you're done betting on your teams, be aware; don't let this form of entertainment become addictive.

Features & Opinion

Whatever happened to common courtesy?

By: Sarah Wiles

I strongly believe that all people are entitled to enjoy their right to freedom equally. In addition, I am of the firm moral stance that all humans deserve at least some element of respect, even when unfamiliar to one another. These convictions are constantly with me, especially in particularly difficult encounters.

Recently, I went to a $5 Tuesday movie night with some friends to see "Olympus has Fallen." (Incidentally, it was a terrific film, and I highly recommend it to all.) I have a slightly different way of "seeing" a movie than others may. I was diagnosed with a rare cancer before age two called retinoblastoma, a cancer which affects the eyes. As a result, I can no longer see anything, so to enjoy a movie fully, I generally need auditory description of events taking place on screen that are unexplained, such as intense unspoken action or subtitled dialogue. This becomes challenging in crowded theaters where I do not want to inconvenience any other viewers by being disruptive, so I always keep my voice as low as possible. Sometimes, I even wait until the loud parts of a movie to ask questions to remain inconspicuous.

This movie was no exception. Some time into the movie, the friend who was explaining such events to me noticed a woman in the row in front of us looking back at us with a disgruntled expression. My friend whispered to me that she thought the woman might be talking about us, to which the woman immediately replied something to the effect of, "Yeah, I am. You are being too loud." I quickly and apologetically explained that my friend was explaining the movie to me since I couldn't see. The woman again expressed that we needed to keep it down, so, not certain if she had heard me, I asserted that I could not see and needed my friend to describe certain things, adding that I was sorry. All the while, I remained as quiet and polite as I could in my conversation. She told me, "yeah, I'm sorry that you can't see, but you really need to keep it down. You shouldn't be sitting here if you need to talk so much. We all paid for this movie."

Perhaps particularly sensitive from the intense action of the movie, I was immediately outraged at such unfair words. I managed to blurt out once more, "I'm blind. I'm sorry." I then turned to my friends and asked, angrily, "Should we move?" Initially, we were going to stay put, holding our ground, but the woman continued to behave rudely, so we got up and moved to a part of the theater with less people. I knew I had to take the high road and get away from her before I said something really regretable. As we walked away, she mumbled, "I wasn't trying to be rude…" We all had a few choice muttered words in response to that.

As this was taking place, many things ran through my mind. I wanted to curse and storm at the woman for disrespecting my right to sit anywhere in the theater, but I also wanted to educate her and explain how my disability impacts my movie watching. I wanted her to know that I, like everyone else, deserved to enjoy this movie fully. At the same time, I understood that she was upset about us being disruptive to her, even though we were whispering. I regret that we had to move to a different location, conceding to her selfishness, but I knew I had to be the better person. And anyway, most likely, she would regret having said anything at all, and that was enough for me. I don't think anyone could come away from saying what she had, feeling like the better person.

More than anything, this altercation reinforced within me my strong beliefs on equality and respect. I have no doubt in my mind that this woman faces adversity in her life; I have no doubt in my mind that all people, at some point in their lives, face adversity. Why then are we so ready to jump down someone's throat for a minor inconvenience, thereby discomforting them and potentially lessening their enjoyment of a particular experience? Why, even after knowing the reasoning, was this woman so determined to negatively impact my understanding of the movie? I may have caused her a bit of annoyance by whispering behind her, but I sincerely considered her and all others the whole time, by keeping my voice down and keeping dialog brief between my friend and I. I probed my mind for an alternative to watching in-theater movies, but have not yet been able to find a desirable one. I remind myself, too, that I deserve just as much a positive movie-going experience as all others do. It isn't as though I chat merrily with my companion about our weekend plans in the movie theater; we have quiet, whispered, and succinct conversation about action on the screen.

I also thought a lot about intent versus impact with this situation. I do not believe that this woman intended her impact to keep me up at night, wondering about the incident; I definitely don't think she thought I was going to write a piece about it in my university's student newspaper. I do, however, believe that she intended to impact me with her words in order to change something, whether it was stopping my friend and I from whispering to one another, or making us move seats, and I do not think that is acceptable. She had a negative impact on my movie experience, even if that was not her intent, but I do not believe she intended to have a positive one. And why not? I just do not understand why, today—in all that we face in conversations of adversity, rights, equality, and liberty—why we must still treat each other with such disregard and disrespect for one another's experiences. Why is it not our intent to have a positive impact on everyone we meet? Or at least just on someone? It may be true that we don't try to hurt one another by being ignorant or selfish, but how can we not consider that we *are* being hurtful sometimes? I know not everyone thinks and behaves like this woman, and for that I am extremely grateful, but I hope some day that we can start to recognize how deep the impact of our words and actions are, and better match our intentions with that impact in every day situations.

Western New England's Semi – Annual

CAR & BIKE SHOW

Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Raindate set for Saturday May 4th

Food, Entertainment, and Contests!

Trophies will be awarded for 10 categories!

Free Admission

Car Registration $10
Motorcycles: $5
Students of WNE: $5

Guarantee yourself a spot in the show by registering early.

(Form is available from Facebook, Kodiak ASME group, or Email us)

Location:
Sleith Parking lot at Western New England University

Contact: Alex Murdoch
P.O. Box 3602

Email:
WNECarShow2013@Gmail.com
Join us on Facebook!
WNE ASME

Retraction

In our last issue of The Westerner, Issue 10, the article titled "Random Acts of Kindness" contained an error: student Kara Moriarity is a first-semester senior, not a sophomore.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining the Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meetings are every other Thursday @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 105

Sports

Golden Bears atheltics start season off in full swing

By: David Bohl

The spring is upon us, and our Golden Bears athletic teams are showing no sign of rust after the long winter. Both the men and women's lacrosse, softball, and baseball teams are at the top of their conference standings at this point in the season.

Just about halfway through the season, Western New England University baseball, softball, and men's lacrosse are all leading their conference standings. Women's lacrosse is in second place in their respective conference.

The baseball team has an 11-5 overall record, and is 2-0 in conference contests. After a good performance in their Florida invitational tournament, the boys have posted a 4-1 record, winning their last four games in a row. Senior Mike Rubino is leading the Golden Bears with a batting average of .383.

Softball is off to a great start, posting a 10-7 overall record with four conference wins and 0 losses. The team's trip to Florida prepped them for the season and allowed them to face serious competition before the actual season began.

"Although we face a tough schedule, I feel that we are ready to take on our competitors," says sophomore Hannah Hill.

"The trip to Florida got us excited and I can't wait to see how our season plays out."

Men's lacrosse, ranked 12th nationally by the USILA Division III coaches' preseason poll are living up to their hype with a 5-4 overall record, 3-0 in conference. This preseason, they were also predicted to win their conference title, making them back to back champions. The team is led by senior preseason All-Americans Aaron Harris and Corey Johnson.

Women's lacrosse also returned from a preseason trip to Florida ready to take on their east coast competition. The team holds a 7-3 overall record, and is 2-1 in conference. Their second-place standing in the TCCC does not scare them, however.

"Although we have tough competitors in our conference, such as Endicott and Roger Williams, I think we are fully prepared to rise to the occasion and beat them," says sophomore defenseman Jessica Stumpf.

The spring is looking hopeful for the Golden Bears. The men and women's lacrosse, baseball, and softball teams are all looking at promising runs toward conference titles. The end of the spring season will hopefully come with four more trophies for Western New England University athletics.

* records as of 4/4/13

Congratulations!

Trevor Breton Earns Pitcher of the Week from the Commonwealth Coast Conference: The sophomore earns the award for the second time this season.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (April 8, 2013)--For the third consecutive week, a Western New England University pitcher has earned top weekly honors from the Commonwealth Coast Conference in baseball. Sophomore Trevor Breton has been named the recipient of the award for the week ending on Sunday, making it his first time doing so since March 4 earlier this season and joining fellow right-hander Mike Lospinuso, who won CCC accolades in each of the previous two weeks.

Taylor Scialdone Nets CCC Rookie of the Week Accolades for Women's Lacrosse: This marks the third award this season for the freshman from Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (April 8, 2013)--Western New England University women's lacrosse freshman attacker Taylor Scialdone has been named the Commonwealth Coast Conference Rookie of the Week by Commissioner Gregg M. Kaye, for the period ending Sunday. This marks the third time this season that Scialdone has earned the award, including March 4 and March 11.

*Courtesy of CCC Press Releases and Patrick Stewart

Spring Athletic Results*

Baseball:
Wins: 14
Losses: 6
Conference Play: 5-1

Softball:
Wins: 15
Losses: 10
Conference Play: 6-2

Women's Tennis
Wins: 1
Losses: 0
Conference Play: N/A

Men's Tennis:
Wins: 7
Losses: 10
Conference Play: 3-5

Men's Lacrosse
Wins: 5
Losses: 5
Conference Play: 3-0

Women's Lacrosse:
Wins: 7
Losses: 4
Conference Play: 2-1

Men's Golf:
Tournament placement: first match on 4/12/13

*As of 4/9/13

Western New England University: Home of the Golden Bears!

Good luck to all spring athletic teams!

The Official Student Newspaper of Western New England University

The Westerner

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Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

The renovations around campus

By: Morgan Harthorne and Christian Orellana

As students walk around campus, many have noticed scaffolds, cranes and fences surrounding Sleith Hall. But Sleith Hall isn't the only renovation that is being made on campus right now.

The Campus Center, the cupola, the WNEC signs outside of the law school entrance and the welcome center, and the parking lots have undergone significant changes that will benefit students and faculty alike.

"We hope to provide [enhanced] facilities that create positive quality [of the campus], excellence, and environment to enhance the learning experience," stated Dean Hart-Steffes.

One of the projects happening around campus at Sleith Hall
Image: Kaylene Hersey

The Office of First Year Students and the Office of Academic Support have maximized space to create a more welcoming atmosphere for students and staff. Video screens have also been added in the Grille area and upstairs in the LBC office.

"As technology progresses, the institution needs to be up to date as well," said Kerri Jarzabski, Dean of First Year Students and Students in Transition. "Western New England is a tuition driven institution and a lot of its ability to move forward depends on the school's budget, capital projects, phone-a-thons and alumni donations," she said.

Among the many other

Continued on page 3

Public Safety and Student Senate install lockboxes in AHLC

By: Sarah Wiles

This past July, Public Safety installed lockboxes in the Alumni Healthful Living Center in response to a rise in theft last semester. In the spring, Student Senate approved a vote to jointly sponsor this project.

"Through our interaction with students and our partnership with Chief Woodrow and Public Safety, Student Senate became aware that there was a lack of secure storage in the AHLC. This gave rise to some crimes of opportunity, with wallets, cell phones, and the like being stolen. This was obviously a concern for both Student Senate and Public Safety, so we decided to work together to have lockboxes installed," stated Holden Canty, Student Senate President.

Student Senate and Public Safety hope that students will utilize the lockboxes so that the opportunity for theft is removed. To use the lockers, students must first go to the security desk in the AHLC to get a token. The person places their valuables in the locker, closes the door, then inserts the token. They then remove the key, which they keep with them for the duration of time they need their items secured. To retrieve their property, the person must use the key to unlock the lockbox, which puts the key back in place.

The newly installed lockboxes in the AHLC
Image: Matthew Amann

"Our hope is that the lockers will be used more frequently once people become aware of their presence," stated Chief Woodrow of the Department of Public Safety.

"Student Senate learned that there was a concern among the students, and was able to work with Public Safety to reach a solution. I would like to thank Chief Woodrow and his staff for their continued commitment to serving students, and the campus community as a whole," stated President Canty.

Canty added, "I would also like to encourage students to bring their thoughts and concerns to Student Senate, so that we may take action to improve our campus. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there is something you would like to talk about. My email address is holden.canty@wne.edu."

Students feel safer with this addition to the AHLC.

"It adds a sense of security when we choose to use the AHLC when we work out," said freshman engineering major Kim Wood.

"The lockers put students' minds at ease while they use the AHLC. It's nice not having to worry about my stuff getting stolen when I'm trying to focus on my work out," stated sophomore sociology major Amber White.

News

Senior Series starts up again

By: Spencer Ives

The Senior Series opened the year with their first event, a beer tasting featuring four different brews from Amherst Brewing Company, on Wednesday, Sept. 13. This event gathered about thirty people into the Evergreen commons to sit around a long table and hear about some of the distinct styles of beer that Amherst Brewing Company produces. Though, this is just the first of various events to come under the Senior Series newest coordinator, Kymberly Hendricks.

"The real focus behind the program is to provide the students with the leadership and knowledge needed for their last year in college, as well as for when they transition out into life after undergrad-whether that be grad school, the work force, or other opportunities," said Hendricks, speaking about the Senior Series' purpose. "We work closely with Student Activities and Leadership Development, the Career Center, Alumni Relations, Mortar Board, and many others on this campus and throughout Springfield to ensure this program provides lots of information to the graduating seniors."

Other events coming up include "Grad School 101," happening on Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Bear's Den. Students can come and get information about how to apply to grad school, what to look for, applying for fellowships, as well as other topics. It will be presented by Andrea St. James

There will also be an "Etiquette Brunch" on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 12 to 2 p.m. in the Bear's Den. Maria Cokotis will host a presentation on proper manners during a work dinner, possibly with a client.

The final event for this semester in the Senior Series will be the "Senior Symposium," which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Hendricks describes it as a day-long conference where students will rotate through three hour-long sessions that will assist with things such as student loan repayment, renting an apartment, negotiating a salary, and more. It will kick off with a keynote speaker and conclude with a wine and cheese reception. Resume critique will occur throughout the event.

While there are still many events to come, Hendricks noted upon the most recent event as a great success, "The beer tasting went extremely well. The guys from ABC were very easy to work with and were able to share some great information about some great craft beers. We have already begun talking about other events we can collaborate on."

The beer tasting itself was led by Amherst Brewing Company's Head Brewer, John Geraci. He led the group through four of ABC's craft beers; their Honey Pilsner, Lewmeister Oktoberfest, Massatuckey Brown, and finishing on their Gone Postal IPA. When asked about what he likes about bringing beer tastings to colleges, Geraci said, "turning people on to craft beers- and if it's ABC, even better- but overall, giving people an appreciation for craft beers."

Events to look forward to in the spring include smart car buying, "What I Wish I Knew"-an alumni panel, and the last lecture series. If any student has a suggestion about what they would be interested in seeing, they can contact Kymberly Hendricks via email at Kymberley.hendricks@wne.edu.

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Home for Homecoming

It's that time of year again, Western New England! Homecoming 2103 is here and you better be too! This weekend, September 27th through September 29th, don't miss out on all of the exciting school events! Start your weekend off the Golden Bear way!

Friday September 27, 2013

- **9:00p.m. -CAB's Comedy committee presents: Yo- Yo and Juggler, Mark Hayward in The Rock Café**

Saturday September 28, 2013

- **11:00 a.m. -Men's Soccer vs. Nichols College**
- **11:30 a.m.- 12:30p.m. -Dance Team Performance on Golden Bear Boulevard**
- **12:00p.m. -Women's Tennis vs. Eastern Nazarene on the Tennis Court**
- **1:00 p.m. -Football vs. Maine Maritime Academy at the Golden Bear Stadium**
- **1:00 p.m. -Women's Volleyball vs. University of New England in the AHLC**
- **1:30 p.m. -Women's Soccer vs. Nichols College at Suprenant Field**
- **6:00 p.m. -Field Hockey vs. Nichols College at the Golden Bear Stadium**
- **8:00p.m. -CAB's Comedy committee presents: Steve Rannazzisi in the AHLC**

Sunday September 29, 2013

- **11:00 a.m. -Men's Soccer Alumni Game at Suprenant Field**

Don't forget to come out this weekend to make some memories with your friends as you support and show your spirit for our school! Come dressed in your Gold and Blue attire! We can't wait to see you this weekend!

Renovations continued from first page

changes and renovations being made on campus, Sleith is by far the most noticeable as it is directly affecting a multitude of students.

"[These renovations] are necessary to assist with classroom and lab space as the engineering program here grows," said Dean Hart-Steffes.

Junior Jeff Cooley is excited about the current renovations for this year, and even more excited for the forthcoming addition.

"Sleith went from a boring building to a really nice building. There are colors on the walls now!" Cooley exclaimed. "There are more classes and more lab space and therefore more student volume. It's especially nice because each lab has an elmo, a high definition projector and a whiteboard, which not all labs had before the renovations."

Sleith is planned to be finished with a new addition of labs to the building by the end of next summer, 2014.

Entertainment

Book Review: "The Cuckoo's Calling" by Robert Galbraith/J.K Rowling

By: Robert Gilchrist

While not technically a new release, "The Cuckoo's Calling" received a great deal of press in June when it was revealed that the author Robert Galbraith was in fact a pseudonym for J.K. Rowling. Rowling, of Harry Potter fame, had written the book under a pen name to avoid any hype and expectations that the book would have had had her name been attached. Ultimately though, her authorship was revealed and the book exploded on the market.

While not a debut novel (as it was for the pen name of Robert Galbraith), it still is Rowling's first foray into the world of detective fiction. The main character, Cormoran Strike, is hired by John Bristow to investigate the apparent suicide of his adopted sister Lula Landry, a world famous model. Strike, along with new temporary secretary Robin Ellacott, are then sucked into the world of high fashion and high society, while exposing the seedy nature of the people that inhabit such a place.

Rowling's prose here is as good as any of her previous work, showcasing her ability to craft fully formed characters in the span of a few pages. By the end of the story, you feel a strong connection to the two main characters and want to see where they will go next. While she does establish a detailed past for the characters, there is still a few nuggets of information and history that she keeps hidden for potentially future books.

Another aspect that makes this book work is that it serves up an intricately plotted mystery. Far too often mystery stories fall into two categories; either they are too simple and the perpetrator is obvious from the start, or the story gets wrapped up in its own mystery so that the reader gets lost in what is going on and who's who. This novel avoids both of those pitfalls however, managing to pull the reader into the story and keep them intrigued until the mystery is solved (and no, I won't reveal if the victim really did commit suicide or not… go read the book and find out).

One flaw, however, to this story is the secondary cast. Most of the suspects come from the world of the rich and high society. Therefore, all of these characters have to be self-centered and concerned deep down with only furthering themselves. Too many of the characters use the suicide to make themselves seem sympathetic in the story, and it comes across as being too self-serving. Too many stories have dealt with an everyman being swept into this world and being exposed to people who are only concerned with their image, so it's disappointing to see that Rowling couldn't break the mold and bring a deeper level of development to these characters.

To follow this line of thought, the character of Cormoran Strike is also somewhat typical. As the story progresses, the reader sees that this character is the typical down-on-his-luck gumshoe detective that is concerned with the greater good, and often butts heads with the police when it comes to dealing with the police. While there is enough done with this character to make him feel unique and individual to other like-minded fictional detectives, it would have been interesting to see Rowling make him a bit more separate from others.

In the end though, this book is a real page-turner. It is a fun mystery that introduces a new and memorable detective into the annals of mystery fiction. With another novel featuring these characters projected to be released sometime in 2014, Rowling (or in this case, Galbraith) may have a new hit series on her hands.

Movie Review: "Riddick"

By: Robert Gilchrist

After walking out of the theatre Saturday afternoon, one thought ran through my mind: "That was a pretty decent movie." While not one of the best movies to come out this year by a stretch, "Riddick" serves as a fun action-horror movie in the vein of the "Alien" series and sees the return of this property to true form after the lukewarm reviews of the previous movie "The Chronicles of Riddick."

Most moviegoers see the fall season as the time when most studios come out with their "award nomination" movies, or movies that are more toned down in action and more amped up in drama and style. Most of the movies coming out at this time will more than likely be in the running for the key academy award nominations coming in February. However, that doesn't mean "Riddick" should be avoided. If anything, more fans should go to see this movie.

The film serves to break up the monotony of seeing another drama or romance that is already predetermined to be enjoyed by most critics. The casual fan doesn't want to see deep characterization; they want explosions and fisticuffs. "Riddick" has that, and then some.

The film serves to continue the story of Riddick, the antihero of the series, from the previous movies and other media forms. It sees Riddick stranded on a desolate planet and forced to return to his more animalistic and brutal methods of survival, all the while fighting dangerous and deadly beasts and villainous assassins that come to collect the bounty on his head. It all cumulates in a final confrontation in a fierce rainstorm (doesn't it always?) that is engulfing the planet in darkness.

However, one of the strengths can also serve as a weakness to the film. Fans of the series may enjoy the film a great deal, but new fans may be lost as to the motivations and back-story of some of the characters (especially Riddick). There is also a certain character that shows up during the film with connections to a character from the previous films. While the reveal of this character may be shocking and chill-inducing for longtime fans of the series, it may come out of left field and have no meaning for someone who hasn't experienced the whole story. There are also characters that only appear for a brief moment in the film but are more heavily expanded upon in other areas of the Riddick universe. Again, it may be cool for longtime fans, but newbies be warned; prior knowledge is a definite for this film.

Ultimately the movie works by giving the fans what they wanted from the second movie but didn't get; Riddick at his most intense and badass. The movie is rated 'R', and it earns it. It doesn't shy away from intense scenes of gore and violence. Instead, it revels in them and (at certain points) even overdoes them. Casual viewers may be unnerved by all the blood and gore, but fans of the series will welcome it.

All in all, "Riddick" serves as an entertaining action movie that breaks up the dull fall months of movie going. While not the best or brightest that action movies can be, fans of the series will be pleased to see a return to form for the character and the franchise.

Features

College Bites: A food review of Ichiban

By: Kaylene Hersey

Ichiban in East Longmeadow is the perfect place for sushi-first-timers here at Western New England. It isn't a well-known place, but it should be, especially for poor college students that want decent food with a cheap price.

Never tried sushi? That's okay, as long as you like seafood and are open to trying new things, you won't be let down.

Ichiban is located at 422 North Main Street in East Longmeadow, Mass. and they are open seven days a week. They even do pick up, just in case you don't have time to sit down there. The prices for the sushi rolls range from $3.75 - 12.95 depending on the type of roll ordered.

Sushi rolls at Ichiban
Image: Kaylene Hersey

At the restaurant, there are an assortment of different seafood and non-seafood sushi, some basic, cheaper rolls such as an Alaskan roll, which is with salmon and avocado to the classic California roll, made with crab, cucumber, and avocado. The non-seafood rolls consist of Sweet potato tempura roll, cucumber roll and avocado roll. Then, there are the fancier ones, which are a little more in cost, but still within a college student's budget, such as "Tom's Special Roll", made with sweet potato, crabmeat stick with a kick of spiciness and eel sauce smothered on top.

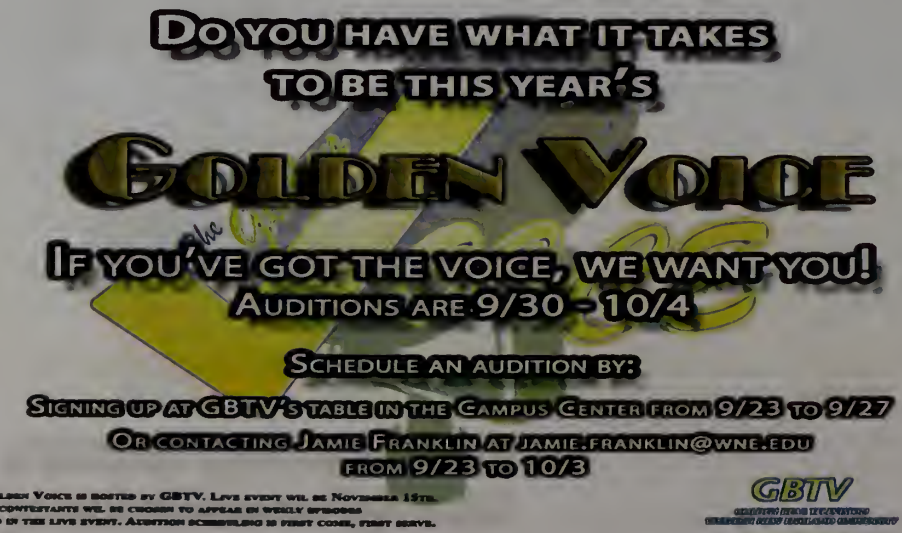
My favorite of the night was the "Sex on the Beach" roll, made with crispy tempura shrimp, white tuna and spicy tuna and avocado. Anyone who loves great fried shrimp would melt at this dish. The crispy textures with the smoother textures of the tuna match harmoniously together. Though the sushi is served with soy sauce, the eel sauce and tobiko layered on top of the wrap make any other seasonings unnecessary.

As a new comer to sushi, I was not a huge fan of the Alaskan roll because it lacked that contrast of crunchiness versus softness. It really only had one texture of smoothness but the seafood inside the roll was still nice, with no sliminess on the fish from all the moisture in the roll. However, any doubts of me liking sushi disappeared after I bit into "Tom's Special Roll." This roll had a nice kick of spiciness with its crabstick and there is something exotic about the sweetness of the sweet potato matched with the savory and spicy crabmeat.

The food wasn't the only great thing about Ichiban. With each dinner meal, there is a special roll and a dessert on the house. And unlike most places where it is really easy to be full before the main course even comes out, sushi is just filling enough that there is room for dessert and you don't leave the restaurant with a food baby in your stomach.

There are a few choices for dessert but the definite choice is the fried ice cream. Though it sounds fattening, it is worth all the calories. They take chocolate ice cream and fry it up, just like it sounds. The fried layer forms a pastry layer around the ice cream and is then smothered in whip cream and chocolate sauce and, though only one dessert is on the house, there is plenty there for more than one person. In my case, it took three to devour it.

The best thing about the restaurant is that if sushi or even Japanese food isn't your style, they also have a menu for Chinese food. It's an Asian cuisine explosion. So, if you're not too open to trying new things, there is always the classic Chinese food to fall back on. Either way, Ichiban has made it onto my list of places that I must go back to.



Features & Puzzles

Beer Review: Flying Fish Brewing Company's Farm House Summer Ale

By: Chris Principato

Welcome back beer enthusiasts! Whether you were traveling, working, eating, sleeping, or dancing over the summer, I hope you all were enjoying the local fare. For this issue's review I am traveling out of Massachusetts and to the great Garden State of New Jersey to tell you about my favorite summer ale. Through my travels I have come across a large passionate and historic craft beer following in New Jersey. The first "Non-Massachusetts" brew to be featured under my meticulous palate is brought to you by none other than (drumroll please) New Jersey's proud Flying Fish Brewing Company.

Not to be confused with Delaware's Dogfish Head Brewery, Flying Fish Brewing Company is located in Somerdale, NJ and has been perfecting brews since 1995. For the Westerner's first NJ beer to be published in a long time, we are featuring Flying Fish's Farm House Summer Ale. Despite popular belief "Farm House" is a fitting name for this NJ brew. New Jersey has a large farming community and is, surprisingly, not only smelly rivers, overcrowded cities, mobsters, tan fist pumpers, and Newark Airport.

Farm House Summer Ale's approach features a hint of citrus that becomes more fragrant as the head dissipates. Upon first sip the citrus notes come through and then are replaced with pleasant spice tones. This brew is full bodied and contains the proper mix of malts and hops for a full palate experience. This Ale finishes smooth similar to a pale ale and is light enough to enjoy on a hot summer day. Food pairings for this American summer ale are anything you would serve at a barbeque. Hamburgers, cheddar cheese, fruit salad, baseball, apple pie, and the American dream are all perfect pairings. If you are proud to be an American or at least envy our lifestyle, Flying Fish's Farm House Summer Ale is perfect for you. Due to its versatility and American attitude, I am giving featuring Flying Fish's Farm House Summer Ale four out of five beers. Please remember to enjoy this brew responsibly and no matter where you are, take time to enjoy the local fare.

Note: All students consuming alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

4/5 Beers

Flying Fish's Farm House Summer Ale
Image: Flyingfish.com

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	8	3	2			4		
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		7			3			6
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		5		6		7	9	
	4		7			3		
1					2			5
		6	4	9			2	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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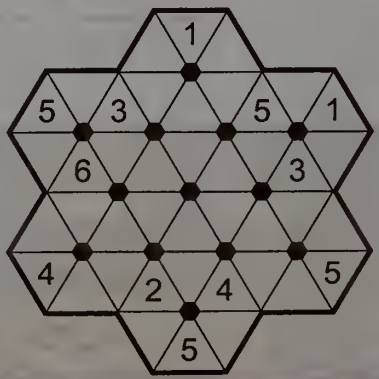
Snowflakes

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Features

A Long Road To Bisco: A music festival experience

By: Nick Palmer

Our northbound pilgrimage through the boundless rustic sea of verdant farmland had passed from night into bleak, bluish gray morning. The gnawing fatigue of endless lamp lit highways end at a train of stagnant cars, flowing down an infinite river of dream-like proportions. The road swarmed with sightless scores of traveling freaks and characters, manifested from a twisted Woodstock fantasy. They spilled into the quiescent dawn of a bucolic New York farm town, the grand spectacle of the exodus of Moses mimicked over a millennium later. They gave no pause to the notion of starting their debauchery even in the tranquil hours of morning, channeling remarkable life and revelry into the dimly lit hillside. As I left my car to adjourn on foot, I saw cavalcades of people inhabiting the streets with drink, dance, and song, no regard for anything else beyond the Godlike presence of the rolling hills, as if time had slipped away completely. The first blush of day against the timeless landscape was bathed in music, emanating from open car doors, filling the brisk morning air. I saw men and women that had patiently spent 362 days out of the year NOT partying like they would here, at this mad and beautiful place, where you enter one person and you leave another. I saw over 80,000 people marching to the same fife, ready as they will ever be to promise each other as well as themselves that this experience would not only come to enrich their lives, it would come to define their lives.

The time was 7:13 a.m. I had just arrived at Camp Bisco.

We stretch our legs and embark through the swelling plazas and canopied shanty-towns, through the administrative missteps of the parking lots, pouring our worn spirits through papers, stamps, wristbands, and tribal artifacts for the identity we will cultivate. On the walk into the campground, we pass in front of a large wooden placard. "Welcome to Camp Bisco" is spelt in kitsch summer camp letters, thrown on in self-jesting, counterculture pastiche. The dew kissed fields roared with the ambient bellow of the proud, tented city-states and the bustling negotiations of the markets that lined the thoroughfare. Camp was a small, notched-out corner of the madness about 200 feet from the first stage. It consisted of a mesh canopy, under which we placed our congress of chairs, coolers, and sufficiently out-of-the-way collections of garbage to serve as a pit stop throughout the course of the evenings. We sequester our tents into the most practical spaces we could and, when the night ended, lumped ourselves in. From his car, my friend Mike pulls several packs of water, a small griddle, a heaping arms worth of metal poles, Gorilla tape, a marker, and a square of orange cloth. He commences in constructing our totem, the flagged landmark that will later become festooned with found embellishments and serve as our tribal claim, our home base, our battle cry. It was the artifacts, the animal madness of it all that one has to embrace in a place like this. You have to divorce yourself from humanity and suspend, if only for a few minutes at a time, the notion of an outside world, for there is none. There are only two moments at Bisco that count: the moment you're in, and the next.

4pm. The first act is a band named Cherub. They arrive to a loyal applause and almost immediately electrocute the stage with astonishing presence. Any who still remained, at least up to that moment, apprehensive towards the saturating sense of hysteria are instantly ensnared. The crowd, plastered against an ethereal neon sunset, becomes a grinder, pulsing with cogs and gears made of flesh and fabric that carries you through swells of compact biceps, swollen chests, and the soft, warm sinew of the bodies with which you eventually blend seamlessly. They fill the evening with throwbacks of disco tones and glossy, sparkling hip-hop beats, glazed with quivering, funky-white-boy tenor vocals and a guitar that could make Hendrix do a double take. The ending number concludes to a rage of fanfare and from there, we migrate to KOAN Sound. A bold, smoky musk of hanging humidity and an industrial steam canopied the B.I.G. Tent, sweeping along the flustered faces and hot backs of the crowd. The subs kick in. The scream of the crowd lifts into the night air and the totems of thousands of tribes bob and sway wildly with the beat. Time passes. It is now Bassnectar. Center stage. The lights pierce the night. A chemical reaction is felt trembling amidst the crowd as the beat begins to build, a visceral instability, a steadily expanding rise in pressure. Everything you've come here for, the emotions you want to feel, the life changing night you were promised rides the measures of the song, the snare chopped into 4ths, then 16ths, 32nds…

And then the beat drops.

A wave of euphoria saturates every fabric of your soul, achieving an auditory singularity, a point of infinite bliss. The crowd is now a steamy life form, an amoeba that flows and throbs with the cleansing vibrations of the bass. There is an innate carnal insanity within each note that drives you, that challenges your very fiber and pushes you to the edge of your own human limitations.

And then the song ends.

It is only when night falls, when the thousands of lights dance on the glassy black sky, when the bass is felt tingle the warm, hard nest of your soul, that Bisco becomes a part of you. It entrenches itself into your being, sewing a permanent thread into your mind, and stays with you for the rest of your life. And no matter what you do from then on, no matter how simple and how prosaic your years might be after Bisco, you never truly leave. There's a part of your soul that resigns itself to Bisco, a part that knows it could never go back to the life it once lived. It's there now. Among the trees, among the steel towers of the stage. Among the lights and the sounds and the endless euphoric dream that reminds us that there is at least one last place on this Earth that we can be truly free. We are all still there.

We are still left waiting, feeling the beat, readying ourselves for the drop.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: westerner@wneclubs.org

Opinion

Do we need more Harry Potter?

By: Robert Gilchrist

Well, it's official. There's going to be another Harry Potter movie.

Before you start asking the obvious questions, no, it will not be a continuation of Harry Potter's story. The film, to be penned by J.K. Rowling as her screenwriting debut, will be based on the life of Newt Scamander, the author of the recurring textbook "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them." It is to be set seventy years before Harry is even born. Odds are, there won't be any cameos from Daniel Radcliffe or other main character actors.

The question I want to know is if we really need this. Do we need to see more Harry Potter on the silver screen? I'd go so far as to say no.

As several news outlets have reported, Warner Brothers had approached J.K. Rowling in regards to making more features set in the world that she famously created in her debut novel, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone." Rowling thought the idea was a great idea, but since she knew details of Newt's backstory that weren't revealed in the books, she offered to write the screenplay for the film instead. With this news, Harry Potter fans rejoiced all across the globe.

But what happens when Rowling decides she has had enough of writing in that world? J.K. Rowling has already moved on to publish two additional adult novels, one under a pen name, so it's safe to assume that the day will come when she will pass on the reigns of the series to the studio or to another film producer or writer. Hey, George Lucas took this path with Star Wars, so why can't Rowling pull off the same accomplishment?

This leads us to begin theorizing what a wizarding world without J.K. Rowling would be like. Would the same childlike wonder and magic still permeate throughout the works, or would the dark and gritty realism of the real world eventually seep into new projects? The Harry Potter books and films did go to dark places, but could they get even darker?

A second point that could be raised is the fact that this could be the beginning of Warner Brothers milking the Harry Potter "cash cow" until there is nothing left in the franchise. It was bad enough that the final book was split into two movies, even though they both turned out really well, but to keep expanding could potentially hurt the franchise.

This line of thinking can connect to most major studios and the current flaw with the movie industry. Most movie studios funnel all their money into previously established franchises, not wanting to take chances on smaller and newer ideas, unless, however, a big name is attached to the project. Studios continue to pump out sequels, prequels, and reboots of old and not so old franchises. Did we need another Spider-Man reboot after only seeing the original released ten years previously? Do audiences really want to see an eighth Fast and the Furious movie? And do audiences really need to know the backstory to Alien depicted in Prometheus?

This is the worry that Harry Potter fans now face. Yes, the new film has great potential to be an interesting look into the world before the famed "Boy Who Lived" set foot on it, but will we still care after hearing about the fifteenth Harry Potter film, now focusing on the Great-Great Uncle of Student X who appeared in two chapters of the third book? How will fans react when a new writer takes off on their own spin on a fan favorite character's origins? Could we see the next great "Bat-flek" debate arise from the ashes of a once great book series? Only time will tell if the new movies will rise like a Phoenix, or fall like the Death Eaters.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

6	8	3	2	1	7	4	5	9
4	5	1	9	8	6	2	7	3
9	2	7	5	4	3	1	8	6
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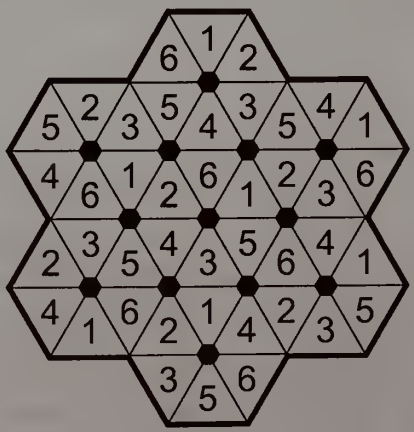
SNOWFLAKES

solution



Sports

WNE students experience the US Open

By: Michael Masciadrelli

Rafael Nadal serves in the US Open final
Image: usatoday.com, photo by Robert Deutsch

Only about two hours away from campus is the home of the largest tennis facility in the world, Arthur Ashe Stadium, the main court at the US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York. The US Open is the last grand slam tournament on the tennis calendar for professional tennis players, beginning the last week of August.

The home favorites coming into this years' tournament included Serena Williams, who had won this major already 6 times and 15th ranked John Isner. Isner's high-powered service game can always be an issue and has been his strength going against high-ranked opponents.

Junior, Dom Brzozowski attended this year's US Open with his father and sister. He enjoyed the several matches he witnessed on Labor Day Weekend, including one with John Isner on the second largest stadium, Louis Armstrong.

"The Isner-Kohlschreiber match was quite the show and probably the most wound up that I had ever heard Louis Armstrong stadium with a majority of the fans pulling for the American," said Brzozowski.

At the US Open, tennis players from all over the world come together to compete for the elusive title. Brzozowski enjoyed the environment and all the different players he got to see each day.

"The US Open has an atmosphere like no other sporting event with so many people from so different nationalities," said the pre-pharmacy major.

Whether you're a tennis fan or just like watching a high level of competition, the US Open brings excitement every year. Not only are the players from all over the world, but the diverse fans in attendance make it unique to other sporting events.

The finals on the men's side included a face-off of the top two tennis players in the world, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. They played twice before in US Open finals, each winning one; however, Djokovic had the upper hand on hard courts. Nadal came into this tournament as the favorite due to his undefeated record on hard courts and a 53-3 record in 2013. He's had a remarkable comeback since his return to the game in February. He watched last year's US Open from his home in Spain when he was recovering from a knee injury he suffered at Wimbledon.

The match was close for a while, where the two combatants split the first two sets. After Nadal fought for a 6-4 win in the third set, he cruised in the fourth set to take the championship.

Other students who couldn't attend the US Open watched it from their computers, or on ESPN 2. Andres Otero was able to follow the US Open's coverage for the full two weeks. The sophomore tennis player from Venezuela models his game after his favorite player, Nadal. He swings a black and yellow striped Babolat racquet with his left hand, and wears a hat with the Nadal bull logo. He was pleased with the outcome of the tournament.

"The US Open was incredible this year since there were many surprises and because the best player won the tournament," said Otero.

Serena Williams once again came out on top in the women's singles tournament defeating the No.2 ranked Victoria Azarenka in three sets. It was her second consecutive title and 17th major overall.

Despite the US Open being the final major of the year, the players continue playing until early November. Nadal, Djokovic, and other ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) players now head to Asia to compete in their next line of tournaments. Depending on how well Nadal plays, he may pass Djokovic in the rankings and take the No.1 ranking by the end of the year.

Sophomore Andrew Schnier, who plays on the Golden Bear tennis team with Otero, attends the US Open every year with his dad. No matter what's going on, he always finds his way back to the event.

"The US Open for me is like escaping to a tennis world. Everything around you is tennis oriented and for me, it's just incredible," said the psychology major.

The US Open brought excitement to tennis fans at Western New England and all over the world. No matter what changes it makes in the future, the US Open will always play a special role in the lives of both the players and fans, including Schnier's.

"If you love tennis and you're American, you have to go to the US Open. There is no place like it."

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff.
Meetings are Thursdays @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 105

The Official Student Newspaper of Western New England University

The Westerner

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Please e-mail:
westerner@wneclubs.org

Pharmacy students and undergraduate activities

By: Sarah Wiles

College of PHARMACY
WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY

Pharmacy students have apted aut of paying student activities fees
Image: www1.wne.edu/pharmacy

Recently, the Pharmacy students, through their student government, made the official decision that they would not pay any undergraduate student activities fee, to account for potential involvement in various undergraduate activities. This is an issue particularly relevant to first and second year Pharmacy students, who started as Pre-Pharmacy at WNE, and interact regularly with their former classmates that are undergraduate juniors and seniors.

Dean Hart-Steffes and Dean Keizer, in a conversation with both student and faculty representatives from the pharmacy school, served as advocates for undergraduate Pre-Pharmacy students and first and second year pharmacy students on this issue.

Dean Hart-Steffes stated, "The conversation was well received by the leadership of the College of Pharmacy and we were both optimistic that the students would choose to more formally connect Western New England p1 and p2 students with traditional juniors and seniors via a couple of options, one being a volunteer, opt-in student activities fee."

Dean Hart-Steffes went on to say, "I was surprised to see that the students in the College of Pharmacy chose not to formalize and structure a voluntary opt-in activities fee. It is interesting to note that both Dean Keizer and I have been approached since the decision was made by current Western New England students who are in the Pharmacy school to ask about paying a fee to be part of their cohort when it comes to traditional campus activities that are sponsored by the Junior and Senior Councils. It is my hope that all students who would like to participate and fully engage in campus life with their friends and classmates would be able to do so. I would welcome additional discussions with the Pharmacy Student Association if they would like to

Continued an page 2

WNE goes wireless

By: Gennah Borg

Students using the WiFi in the campus center
Image: Gennah Borg

Wi-Fi has become the most popular topic on college and university campuses today. With new electronic gadgets such as the Mac Book Air and the latest models of the iPad, more and more technology is being designed without Ethernet ports, creating the need for a wireless internet connection on higher education campuses. Hoping that our campus will get Wi-Fi? Fear not, as the Western New England University Wi-Fi Installation Project will be here sooner than you think. We are going wireless and I have all of the details regarding this exciting milestone on our campus that you are looking for.

In a survey put out by the Student Senate in 2011 asking what students believed would make our campus better, 95% of WNE students said that installing Wi-Fi would make our campus a more student friendly place to reside.

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of speaking with the Wi-Fi Installation Project head and the Assistant Vice President of the Office of Information Technology, Scott J. Coopee. "This is necessary technology [for our campus] to compete," said Coopee in regards to his thoughts on the Wi-Fi Installation Project. "We want to treat you as if you are at home."

Dean Hart-Steffes, the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Dean of Students, also commented on the project and said that she believes that, "Wi-Fi in the residence halls will be very welcomed and is a needed addition to the campus." Dean Hart-Steffes also added that she believes, "Wi-Fi will be a very positive resource and learning tool [for our students.]"

Having already started the Wi-Fi Installation Project in early October of this year, Commonwealth Hall is the first residence hall on campus to be a part of this milestone for the Western New England University community. Installing Wi-Fi in the newest of the freshman housing buildings will take roughly one month to complete. According to Coopee, Commonwealth Hall will have about 65 Wi-Fi access points throughout the building.

From here, the suggested plan of Wi-Fi installation will proceed to Berkshire Hall, Franklin Hall, Hampden Hall and Windham Hall. Installing Wi-Fi within these residence halls will also take about one month to complete. According to Coopee, installing Wi-Fi within the freshman residence halls is the first priority of this project. Following the freshman residence halls, the Wi-Fi Installation Project will proceed to upper classman housing including LaRiviere Living and Learning Center, Plymouth, Evergreen Village and last but not least, Gateway Village. Once Wi-Fi has been installed on campus, residence of the Western New England University campus will be able to con-

Continued on page 3

News

Pharmacy continued from first page

revisit this topic."

Holden Canty, President of WNE's Student Senate, stated, "Since taking office I have not been directly involved in negotiations with the College of Pharmacy or the Pharmacy program student government, but would love to re-open the dialog to reach a solution that better meets the needs of students who start here as undergraduates and build relationships with a certain class, and then are put in an awkward place in regards to attending events. I would like to see the Pharmacy Student Government reconsider this issue and come to the table to negotiate a better solution with the undergraduate Student Senate. I think a system where Pharmacy students can opt-in to participate in undergraduate events, and have a portion of their activities fee paid to the College of Pharmacy be transferred to the undergraduate Student Senate would be the best solution. This way the Pharmacy students who want to participate in undergraduate events would have that opportunity and the undergraduates would have the budget to be able to accommodate them. What the number looks like is up for negotiation, but I think we have the opportunity to build a more inclusive campus and develop the relationship between graduate and undergraduate students here, and I am confident we will find a solution that keeps the best interest of the students in mind."

There seems to be a disconnect between pharmacy students who started at Western New England as undergraduate Pre-Pharmacy majors, and entered the Pharmacy school in what would have been their junior year, and students who entered the Pharmacy school after having already completed a four year degree. A student from the College of Pharmacy stated, "A good number of us were not undergraduate students here, and thus may not have the same connection that those who did go here before beginning the professional phase of the program do. For my peers who weren't initially here, I don't think it will affect them too much. I don't think it will have as much of an effect [on them] as it will on those who attended undergrad here, who are interested in those activities."

Pre-Pharmacy major, Christina Di Donato, stated, "Ideally, it would be nice to have graduate and undergraduate students participate in activities together. Potential friendships can be made through common interests through clubs, but without that involvement, the Pharmacy students seem to be excluded from the rest of the campus. However, it is important to take into account the different demographics between the undergraduate and graduate communities. Some graduate students may often have other obligations that limit their time on campus, such as jobs, supporting a partner and/or children, or simply ensuring that they have sufficient time to study."

Dean Keizer stated, "Traditional undergraduates want to be able to have their Pharmacy friends - and, often the case, roommates - attend programs, despite the fact that they have not paid the Student Activities fee. Currently, there are many students in leadership positions in Pharmacy organizations who started in the undergraduate class councils. Some advocated during their first year in Pharmacy school to be allowed to chair committees in the council structure and were supported to do so by classmates."

Dean Keizer continued, "Ultimately, I want these students to graduate with a strong affiliation to Western New England University and to reflect upon the experience in a positive manner and with a sense of community."

President Canty described this situation as negative for the the campus community as a whole: "Pharmacy students who identify with an undergraduate class are being isolated. Undo stress is being placed on undergraduate clubs and organizations to either not allow the Pharmacy students at their events, or allow them to participate with no additional funding. Because the Pharmacy students don't pay an undergraduate student activities fee, the clubs are not getting money from these students and have to eat the costs associated with having them at undergraduate events. I think everyone can recognize that this is a tough position for undergraduate clubs to be put in, and that it's making Pharmacy students unhappy when it's completely unnecessary."

Canty further explained, "I am disappointed by the decision made by the Pharmacy program because I have seen a lot of Pharmacy students who are upset at the outcome and are worried about being able to participate in events, especially Senior class events with their friends that they have known for three years and still live with. As a representative of the undergraduate community, I would like to see a better solution because Pre-Pharmacy students are undergraduates and I want to make sure that when they do move on to the Pharmacy program they are not excluded from the community. That is not the kind of campus environment we are trying to build."

Kelly Robbins, President of the Campus Activities Board, expressed how this issue has and will impact C.A.B., "We have faced many issues with the problem that Pharmacy students are not able to participate in the undergraduate activities that so many of their peers are able to. One of the concerns that we, along with so many other clubs, have faced is that these students are not eligible to participate in the club on an executive level. This is different for us than other clubs in that we run on a December to December year plan, in order to ensure the best possible programs as new students move in, and so that we can be leaders that others can turn to as most Executive Boards are just starting. This affects Pharmacy students in that the set up means, if any of them want to be an Executive Board member, they need to apply in November of their freshman year. Becoming an E-Board member at this time is not unheard of, but it does not happen often and most students do not feel ready for such a high leadership position after only a couple months in the organization."

President Robbins also spoke about the impact of this situation on C.A.B. events, "It is hard to have students come to an event and have to turn them away, so for some of our smaller events where nothing physical is taken away, we don't mind letting them attend. However, one of the main problems we have is with our travel trips. As a graduate student, the University Tickets system does not recognize them as eligible to purchase a ticket. This is hard for us because we do not know who plans on purchasing a ticket, or even how many people have been denied a purchase. To them it may seem that tickets are sold out, when in fact this is not the case, and we could theoretically sell more, if these students were allowed to purchase. We are working on a solution in which we could accommodate these students, meaning the students would need to pay the cost of the trip at face value, with no subsidized cost. Obviously, however, this would mean that not many students would purchase the tickets."

On the issue as a whole, President Robbins stated: "I personally feel that this decision is a let down. There are so many events and Executive Board positions that students miss out on, both inside and outside of C.A.B. I see how hard people fight for the right to participate in these roles and how let down they are when they get denied, and I can only sympathize with how disappointing and upsetting the feeling is to not be alongside your friends and take on the leadership role you were dreaming about for two years."

Di Donato spoke about how this situation will impact her involvement on campus: "During my first and second years here, I have become very involved with the music ensembles on campus and am currently acting as secretary of both the Campus Chorus and Concert Band. Once I enter my first year of Pharmacy school, I will be forced to forfeit my position and I will not have the option to run again. I thoroughly enjoy the work I do and I will be sad to leave the Executive Board during a time of major change within the music program at Western New England."

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: westerner@wneclubs.org

News & Entertainment

Wireless continued from first page

nect to the "wne" or "wneguest" network, which is already seen and accessible in the St. Germain Campus Center as well as Southwood Hall.

Having Wi-Fi in the residence halls will be a great contribution to campus. People will no longer need to carry their Ethernet cable to their common study room to connect to the Internet while doing homework. People with smart phones will never have to worry about exceeding their monthly data while surfing the Internet without being connected to a wireless network.

"Having Wi-Fi in the residence halls will make it more convenient for students because they will no longer be limited to Ethernet cords. In my suite, we are limited to using our computers in only certain areas where we can connect to and reach the Ethernet outlet," said sophomore, Kara Schoedler.

"I am exited that our campus is finally getting Wi-Fi. It is a hassle to have to plug my laptop into the wall every time I want to search for information in my dorm. Wi-Fi will also allow me to work with fellow classmates on group projects without having to go library every time just to provide us all with Internet access," commented sophomore, Ryan Fleming.

"I am really excited that Western New England University is getting Wi-Fi. This is something that has been talked about for so long, and I am glad that it is finally happening. I think that not having Wi-Fi really put us behind a lot of other schools and now that we are getting Wi-Fi, it shows that our university is taking the initiative to do something that the students want. Plus, it will be nice to not have to use as much data on my phone!" added sophomore Lyndsey St.Jean.

"Much like car shopping", said Coopee, "negotiating a reasonable price for the Wi-Fi Installation Project is a process in and of itself." As with any consumer purchase, our university wants the best quality technology for the least amount of money. According to Dean Hart-Steffes, the estimated price for the Installation Project will cost the university $900,000.00. Dean Hart-Steffes also said that the Office of Information Technology department on campus is working effortlessly to reduce the cost of this project. Fortunately though, whatever the price of the project may cost, student tuition fees will not be affected.

According to Coopee and Dean Hart- Steffes, the project is estimated at being completed by the beginning to the middle of next school year.

Remembering Cory Montieth

By: Kaylene Hersey

Cory Montieth, star of Glee, passed away earlier this year
Image: clubhousenews.com

There were a few things that I knew for certain when I sat down to watch Glee's tribute to Cory Monteith. One, I would need a lot of tissues and two, this was going to signify the end to Glee forever.

Actor Cory Monteith, who played one of Glee's main characters, Finn Hudson, passed away this past summer, a little bit before the first episode of Glee's season five was being taped. His death came unexpectedly to the cast and crew, and the writers scrambled to change the storyline. One of those major changes was a whole episode dedicated to Cory Monteith and his character, Finn Hudson.

This is not the first time Glee has done a tribute episode for a passing star. They have dedicated episodes to both music legends, Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston. But this time was different. This time it was one of their own and it was very uncertain to fans and the writers on how the tribute should be approached.

After watching it and drying my eyes multiple times, I have to say the way they eventually decided to film it was beautiful. I have had my fair shares of cries from TV and movies (Glee being one on multiple occasions), but no movie, no book, no TV show has ever affected me the way this episode has. I felt that everyone got to say their goodbyes in a perfect, heart-warming way and all his greatest traits of his character and of Cory Monteith himself were captured wonderfully from beginning to end.

With all of this said, when it ended, I couldn't help but hate it. Hate it because an hour could not possibly sum up a person's entire life, hate it because I knew it wasn't real closure, but most of all, I hated it because this episode marked, for me, the end of Glee.

Sure, Ryan Murphy announced that Glee would be finished at the end of season six, which is still a ways away, but this episode, saying goodbye to Finn Hudson, was like saying goodbye to the show. When Glee comes back after their short hiatus, I am not sure if I can handle watching the show go back to normal, with its cheery music and happy storylines when I know that my favorite character will never walk down the halls of McKinley or sing another duet with Lea Michele. What the episode lacked was closure for Finn's character. There had been huge plans for him on the show. Murphy had hinted at him taking over the Glee club and it was only a matter of time before he and Lea Michele's character, Rachel, got back together. But none of this was able to happen. Glee has to take a new route and I don't think whatever they come up with could ever compare to what should have happened with Cory Monteith alive.

I don't think they will be able to bounce back from this. Glee was already going downhill in season 4, so it was only a matter of time before it came to an end. But now with this tragic loss, it is hard to believe that Glee could even possibly last through two more seasons. There just doesn't seem to be a way for it to move on without Cory Monteith on that screen.

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Entertainment & Features

Book Review: The Ocean at the End of the Lane, by Neil Gaiman

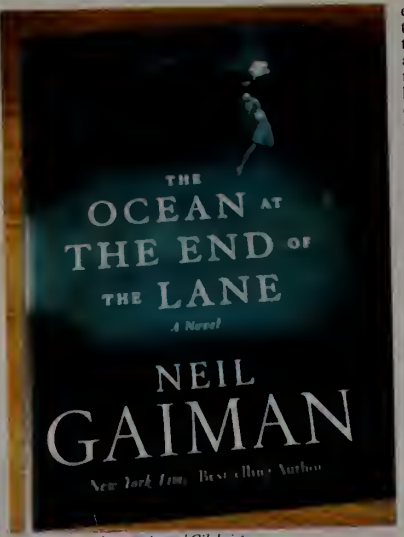
By: Robert L. Gilchrist

Known for his dark fantasy stories filled with macabre characters and spellbinding settings, Neil Gaiman has become one of the most prolific writers of this generation. He has spread his name across multiple mediums and genres, slowly accumulating countless awards with his tales. So it's saying something that his latest release, "The Ocean at the End of the Lane," stands as his finest and most accomplished prose work yet.

The story, set in a small English village, tells the tale of an unnamed narrator as he recalls his childhood when he was the age of seven. His life is that of a normal child's, until the suicide of a traveler in his family's car brings the arrival of a menacing evil upon the lane where he and his family live. As the tale progresses, the narrator must team up with his neighbor and fast-friend Lettie Hempstock as they try and rid the lane of this new and terrifying evil that threatens to consume and corrupt them all.

Gaiman is a master of weaving the fantastical with the real, and it is most apparent in this tale. His characters interact with (and wield) powers that seem impossible, but in the hands of Gaiman it's undeniably believable. You will believe that a lake in a backyard is in fact an ocean of knowledge, and that your new nanny is in fact a monster from somewhere else. By the end, a part of you might just believe that Gaiman knows something about the world we're all too oblivious to notice.

One aspect that makes the novel truly shine is the way Gaiman manages to capture the voice of the narrator. In the prologue, we see the narrator as a middle-age man returning home after years away and reflecting on simpler times. It's a feeling that most people (if not everyone) has felt upon returning to a place they knew as a child, but where Gaiman really excels is at creating the voice of the narrator at the age of seven. His voice has such a naïve sensibility to it that you might just believe that a seven year old dictated it at points. The novel never manages to stray from the feel of viewing the world through the eyes of a child, and it is through this lens that the novel manages to hit its stride and show the reader why it is Gaiman's best prose to date.



The novel that captivated Gilchrist
Image: Robert L. Gilchrist

At its core, the novel manages to remind the reader what it was like to view the world as a child. By the time most of us have arrived at college, we have forgotten what it was like to be a kid wandering around without a care in the world. This novel showcases the highs and lows of what it was like to grow up, and remind us of even the most tiny thoughts and musings we had at that age. By the end of the book, you'll be left with a sense of wonder and melancholy that those days have passed and are gone.

The only (tiny) flaw to the book is its length. At only one hundred and ninety-two pages long it does read quickly, but there are moments that could be expanded upon and viewed in greater detail. But this is a minor flaw, and shouldn't detract from your reading of the book.

With "Ocean," Neil Gaiman has crafted a powerful and moving piece about the power of friendship, time, family, and the magic of being seven. Go read this book; I can't recommend it highly enough. You'll be glad you did.

College Bites: A food review of White Hut

By: Kaylene Hersey

For a good burger, college students could just go to Red Robin or find the closest Five Guys, but if students want to switch it up from the strenuous chains and just want a nice, homey burger with a juicy bite, White Hut, located in West Springfield is the place to go.

White Hut is a small burger joint and diner. Though there is seating outside, the best seat in the place is right at the bar where you can watch them cook up your food right as you order.

Now, as for their world famous burgers, they are pretty decent in flavor and the meat is very juicy. With that said, the burgers are very thin. It's not a big bite but the upside is that they serve double, triple, and quadruple burgers and each added burger only adds an additional dollar to the already very cheap price.

A tasty meal at a lesser known place
Image: Kaylene Hersey

The other great thing about their burgers is the endless choices of toppings that they have, including crunchy onions, tomatoes, peppers, pickles and sauces such as ketchup, mustard, relish and barbeque sauce. With these toppings, I easily forgot that it was a small burger.

Personally, my favorite part of White Hut was the atmosphere. At first when I pulled into the place, I was uncertain with what I had gotten myself into. The place is a little run down so it definitely was not appealing at first, but once I got inside and sat down, I realized that I really shouldn't judge until I've had my first bite. The inside still looked a little shabby and extremely empty. Having plain white walls certainly did not help the place but the waiters and cooks were very friendly the moment I walked in. Since I sat at the bar, the cooks and waiters constantly were chatting with all the customers seated there. It was really nice to feel included with strangers around me.

There was only one clear downside for me at White Hut, and that is their hours. Since they are a diner, they open really early, most days around 6 in the morning, but because of this early morning opening, the place closes at 6:30 p.m. The first time I went to check out the place, they were already closed and I was going at my normal dinnertime of 7 p.m. I definitely was not very pleased with this because, though it is only one town over, it still is a good twenty-minute commute. Luckily, I was able to go back when they were open and I was pleasantly surprised. Overall, I would definitely consider going back. It is perfect for college students because it is cheap food but really tasty food and, as far as I know, that is most college student's dream food.

Features

What you can do to prevent bicycle theft

By: Lt. Michael Purcell

One of the best ways to get around on a university campus is on bicycle. Over the years we have seen more and more bicycles used as transportation by students and faculty/staff. The bicycle is as important as a vehicle and must be secured to prevent theft. Last month, we had one reported bicycle stolen from campus. The owner of the bicycle had placed his bike in a bicycle rack, but did not lock it to the rack and the bike was gone. This was the one time that the owner of the bicycle did not lock his bike. All it takes is that one time.

Here are some tips to avoid this:

1. Never leave your unlocked bicycle unattended.

2. Park your bike in a bicycle rack.

3. At night, make sure it is in a well-lit area.

4. Secure your bicycle with a high quality U-Lock.

5. The U-Lock should wrap around the frame to the bicycle rack. A bicycle cable is needed to secure front and back wheels, with the ends of the cable attached to the U-Lock.

6. If you don't have a U-Lock, a bicycle cable and lock will do. Although no lock will guarantee security, it's better than nothing. Don't make it easy for a thief.

7. Do not leave your bicycle bag or bicycle computer on the bike. Take them with you.

8. Write down the year, make, model, color and serial number of your bicycle and keep this information in a safe place. Take a photo of your bicycle. In the case where your bicycle is stolen, this information is needed for a Police report. The serial number can be located underneath the bottom of the bicycle frame at the bottom bracket between the pedals.

Remember to be vigilant and report suspicious activity. The Campus Police can be reached at 413-782-1207.

Fire escape planning

By: Officer Monica Viegas

Never ignore a fire alarm. Respond to every alarm as if it were a real fire. If you hear an alarm, leave immediately and close doors behind you as you go, to delay any potential fire spread.

Have an escape plan. Building evacuations are delayed due to lack of preparation and planning. Take a few minutes to devise one for you and your roommates. Remember the assembly point area in the building you are in.

Know at least two exits from your room/building. You always need to assume that your first most natural escape route might be blocked. You do not need to go out the same door you entered. Know where your nearest EXIT door is located.

Memorize the number of doors to the nearest exit. You also need to assume that you may not be able to see. Know how many doors or landmarks are between you and a safe escape, just in case.

Never remove a smoke detector or remove the battery from them: Vandalized smoke alarms inhibit early detection and endanger everyone in a dormitory. Most smoke detectors are hard wired and an alarm will sound in the University Police Dispatch Center if tampered or removed. A smoke alarm doubles your chance of survival should a fire occur.

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

On September 23, 2013, at approximately 10:01 a.m. Officers responded to the Blake Law School to assist Law School Security remove a subject who was not welcome on campus due to a previous incident on campus. The subject was advised that she was not welcome on the campus and left without incident.

On September 24, 2013, at approximately 12:30 p.m., a Western New England University employee entered Western New England University Police Department to report a suspicious phone call. The employee received a call from an unknown caller stating his son was in an accident in the city. The caller stated they are holding his son hostage and demanded ransom. Dispatch contacted Springfield Police Department for further information and confirmed an accident did occur but the employee's son was not involved. Officers made contact with the employee's son and confirmed he was okay and was not in an accident. The case remains under investigation.

On September 26, 2013, at approximately 10:47 a.m. University Police responded to a fire alarm at the Campus Utilities Building. Arriving officers reported smoke on scene and Springfield Fire Department was advised. The mechanics were repairing a WNE truck using welding equipment and material inside the cab caught fire. The flames were extinguished prior University Police arrival. The Springfield Fire Department inspected the area and deemed the fire was out and the area safe. There were no injuries reported.

On September 28, 2013, at approximately 2:05 a.m. University Police were dispatched to Evergreen Village for a report of vandalized pumpkins. The pumpkins were taken from the residence front stoop and smashed on the sidewalk. Residence Life Supervisor on duty was advised of the incident.

On September 29, 2013, at approximately 1:33 a.m. University Police were dispatched to Plymouth Hall for a report of an intoxicated male. Officers arrived on scene and began an alcohol assessment of the intoxicated male and determined he was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. The male became uncooperative with officers and was subsequently placed under arrest and charged with disorderly conduct and minor in possession of alcoholic beverages.

Reminder, please make sure that your E2 campus account is active. Also, make sure that you have checked the box to receive WNE Weather Alerts regarding cancelations and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSFSR.pdf

Opinion

Is "The Walking Dead" worthy of TV?

By: Robert L. Gilchrist

"The Walking Dead" is overrated.

You heard me. It's overrated. Sure, when it first came out, it was a cool concept. Hell, I was a fan of the book that tried to encourage people to watch the show before it premiered. The first season was full of dynamic images and homages to the comic book. However, later seasons have gotten long-winded and stagnant, with only the season premieres and finales having any real heft to them to keep me interested. With this in mind, and having grown up as an avid comic book reader, I can't help but to wonder and fantasize what books would be more interesting and more deserving of a television series than "The Walking Dead." Here are five books that could do the trick.

"American Vampire" – Cashing in on the vampire craze of our generation, this series examines the origins of America through the eyes of a new breed of vampire created in the Wild West. With strong characterization of every player in the series and intriguing metaphors throughout such as American vampires only being able to die by the touch of gold, this book would be a strong contender on a cable network that could really let these fearsome vampires let loose and be the fearsome creatures they are on the pages. Additionally, with the current popularity of shows like "Boardwalk Empire" and "Mad Men," this book turned television series could really shine as it moves from the Roaring Twenties to the present day with its main characters.

"Mind MGMT" – Everyone likes a good water-cooler show that leaves fans speculating as to what will happen next, and Mind MGMT is the comic book equivalent of that formula. With the first story arc focusing on a reporter's investigation into the activities of the elusive Mind Management organization and its mysterious agents around the globe, it has the feel of an old action-mystery show that unravels puzzles just as they serve you up new ones. With talking dolphins, immortal agents, and conspiracies built upon more conspiracies, this series has the potential to be the next "Alias" or "Lost" in television scope and adventure.

"Chew" – Cop dramas never get old, they are all about finding new ways to tell the same stories and that is the challenge. A book about "cops, crooks, cooks, cannibals, and clairvoyants," "Chew" focuses on the adventures of Special Agent Tony Chu of the Food and Drug Administration. In a post-bird flu world, chicken is illegal and the F.D.A. is the most powerful government agency in the world, employing humans who have special food abilities to solve food-related crimes. Tony Chu is one of these people, being cibopathic since birth; he can get a psychic impression from anything that he eats. Taking a more twisted and more dark-humor approach to the cop drama formula with conspiracies of its own, "Chew" could breathe new life into television the way "The Walking Dead" did several years ago.

"Sweet Tooth" – For those of you who are into post-apocalyptic stories and can't get enough, this series is for you. Ten years ago, a virus known as The Affliction, raged through the world and killed a majority of the human population. The only children born since the outbreak are half-human, half-animal hybrid children. It is through the eyes of Gus, a hybrid deer-boy that the series is told. While it does share some of the same aspects and tropes as those of "The Walking Dead," "Sweet Tooth" has the advantage of having run for only forty issues, while "The Walking Dead" is well past one hundred. With a tight and compact story, the series works to showcase character arcs at their best. Whereas "The Walking Dead" sometimes retreads on old familiar ground that has already been covered, "Sweet Tooth" manages to show its readers how a character goes from point A to point B without revisiting old storylines. Also, I'd rather follow Jepperd, the leader of the group in the "Sweet Tooth" series, over the wimpy Rick Grimes in any apocalypse scenario.

"The Sandman" – The granddaddy of all non-superhero comics, "The Sandman" is a landmark series following the enigmatic Morpheus, the King of Dreams, as he tries to reconnect with his friends, family, and humanity as he returns from a decades-long imprisonment. Having won numerous awards for its storytelling and wildly unique tales, "The Sandman" is one of the few comic series that could be truly regarded as literature, evidenced by the fact that Vertigo, the comic series author, has begun releasing annotated collections of the series with included analyzed information on the pages of the comics. With most of the story set in a world of dreams and examining personifications of Death, Destiny, Desire, and others, "The Sandman" could serve as a high-fantasy series that could give "Game of Thrones" a run for its money.

All of these comic book series are just wild speculations. None of these comics are anywhere near seeing the light of day as television series, except for however, "Chew," which Showtime showed a brief interest in several years ago and then turned it down. I would stake my reputation on any of these comic books making for a better and more interesting television series than "The Walking Dead." If after reading this article you decide to check out these comic books, I am sure you will agree with me!

Where are we, really?

By: Spencer Ives

People ask where I go to school quite often, and I say, "just outside of Springfield." I say this because when I truly think and give conscious effort to determining my place in things, that's where I see myself. It seems to me that when I think of Springfield, I see one of the more industrial or urban settings in Western Massachusetts. Yet, when I look at where we are and the campus we live on, it simply does not match up with what the mind conjures with Springfield, Massachusetts. I do not see myself amidst buildings and large turmoil-filled streets. We are more out in the open than we might realize.

If one stops and truly looks around, they might realize what an oasis our campus is in the greater geographic context of the Springfield area. One point of this in particular is the matter of wildlife. From birds to small mammals, there are a surprising amount of critters from one corner of the Western New England campus to the other.

Off the top of my head I can name over a dozen birds seen around campus, from crows to orioles. Most recently in bird activity on campus, though, is that there have been interesting sightings of hawks. Last semester there was a family of hawks living around the woods next to Gateway Village. This happy family hatched a fledgling that was flying around campus last semester- they must be proud. There were also groups of hawks living in the trees around Evergreen Village this past summer. Just recently, I have seen various new birds cropping up around our lovely green campus, including House Finches and Sandpipers.

Besides what lives in the trees of our camps, there are also the creatures on the ground. Most people on campus have noticed our abundance of squirrels, however, there are even larger things. I have often spotted rabbits in Evergreen, especially at nighttime. There have also been foxes around Southwood Hall. I have even seen a groundhog running across the Quad Lot.

There is a lot more wildlife to this campus than some notice. So, when people ask me where I go to school and I think about all the ways in which I personally see and define this campus, I say "just outside Springfield."

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Opinion

Ho ho hold your horses

By: Christopher Quigley

The holiday season is quickly approaching! Being a red blooded American, in good conscience, I cannot say that I am not excited. Sadly, however, the oncoming Christmas season has lost some of the excitement that used to come along with it. This is in no small part due to the fact that Christmas is advertised earlier and earlier every year. First off, I want to make clear that there is no bigger fan of the Christmas season than I. Yet, however, every year Christmas means less and less, and is frankly becoming irritating.

Gone are the days when a person would spend eleven months of the year waiting to see mall Santas and to hear "Frosty the Snowman" on the radio. It seems as though the corporate mega machine that stands to profit from the giving nature of the holiday season somehow finds a way to start the season earlier and earlier each year. All one has to do is walk into a Target or a Wal-Mart at any time from mid-October until Christmas and there will be ornaments and decorations for sale. I can share from personal experience that there is no less satisfying of a feeling in the world than hearing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" come on the radio on a warm, sunny, October day.

To a person who doesn't enjoy Christmas music, listening to the radio from Thanksgiving to Christmas is something that should really be avoided. During this time of year, the radio airwaves become so inundated with the same type of music that even someone as pro-Christmas as myself, doesn't really mind when the season ends. This has been universally accepted by society as the way things are, but only because it used to be contained in a roughly one-month time period. The first time I heard a Christmas song on the radio outside the Christmas season was worse than when I found out Santa Claus didn't exist. It felt wrong in every way and left a bitter taste in my mouth, or ears, I suppose. Hearing "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" before Halloween is a lot like seeing a clown on a school playground; you don't know why it's happening but you're sure that no good can come out of it. Just imagine hearing "The Monster Mash" in July. It makes you feel dirty, doesn't it? This is the problem we're facing.

Whoever is behind this premature decking of the halls, possibly an ogre of some kind, does not understand a very important part of why people feel so strongly about the Christmas season. One of the most important elements in the feeling of Christmas is that you need to wait eleven months for it to arrive. To turn Christmas into something that lasts three consecutive months out of the year would be like having the ability to eat nothing but your favorite food for the rest of your life. It sounds good in theory; however, when you think about it, you realize that eventually you will get sick of it that you may never truly enjoy your favorite food again.

The biggest problem with society slowly forcing Christmas further and further down our collective throats is that people are appreciating this joyous season less and less. The spreading out of Christmastime dilutes the feelings that are supposed to come with the season. Children growing up in a time where Christmas lasts three months are now at a serious risk of not understanding how great this time of year can truly be. I can clearly picture myself as a lame old dad years from now talking to my kids about how, "Back in my day, Christmas was Christmas. We had these things called October and November that came between summer and Christmas time." So excuse my Grinchness if you can, but think of how much better Christmas would be if it actually only came once a year!

Qualms & Quarrels: Advice Column

Q: "My boyfriend has been really down on himself and distant lately, and it's making me feel like he doesn't want to be in our relationship anymore. I really love him and want to be with him, but I don't understand him when he gets like this. What should I do?" –*Confused Lovebird.*

A: Well Lovebird, the only way to tackle this issue is for us to get real, really fast. I understand how you feel. Your boyfriend is probably a great guy, which is why you love him, and I know that you want nothing more than to stay with him and be a happy couple. But I also understand that this feeling can get lost when you are confused about how your significant other is acting. If your boyfriend is being so down on himself that you have reached the point to where you have started questioning your relationship together, that is not a good sign. However, there are still a few things you could do in this situation.

First off, you should sit him down and talk to him about how he has been acting. Ask your boyfriend to open up to you about what exactly has been getting him down lately and see if there is anything you can do to help him out. Maybe after talking to him, giving your boyfriend some space will help. It's often a good idea to give your significant other some time alone when they are feeling out of sorts and feel the need to focus on themselves for a while. Perhaps after doing so, your boyfriend will come back to you feeling like a new man and ready to commit to the relationship the two of you have without inadvertently making you feel estranged. However, there is the other side of that hopeful coin to consider as well.

If you try to talk to your boyfriend and he doesn't want to talk to you, or he continues to feel down, or even starts to act worse, it might be a good idea to separate yourself from him instead of letting him make the choice. I know this is not ideal, but a clean break-up might help your boyfriend realize that his sullenness affects you too, and that he should be open to talking about it with you and working towards trying to figure things out. In the end, however, you have to make the decision that not only puts the least strain on your relationship, but also puts the least strain on yourself. There's no use putting in 100% of your effort if the other party can not seem to reciprocate. I hope that everything works out for the best for you and that your boyfriend heals soon.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are every other Thursday @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 105

Sports

Red Sox in World Series after incredible 2013 season

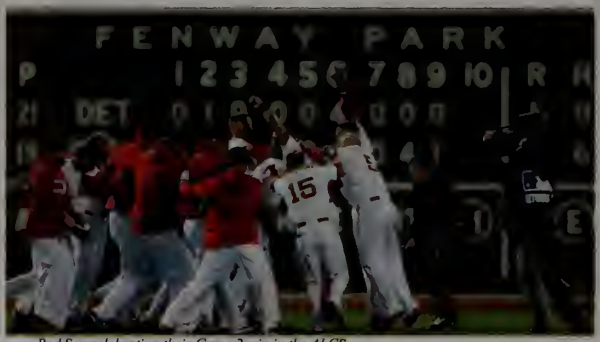
By: Michael Masciadrelli

For all you Boston Red Sox fans out there, it has been a spectacular year. From finishing in last place last year, the Red Sox earned the best record out of any American League team. With the tragic events on Patriots Day of this year in Boston, the Red Sox are playing with added motivation.

With the way the Red Sox turned it around this year under manager Jim Farrell, everything has seemed to click. As a sports fan and even a Yankees fan, this, for me, has been impressive to watch. In 2013, the starting pitching all came together for the Red Sox. Even pitcher John Lackey found a way to turn it around, going from a 6.41 last year to an earned run average of 3.52. Junior political science major and Red Sox fan, Mark Martinez, was shocked by the remarkable turnaround.

"Coming off of last year I was a very discouraged fan," said Martinez. "I knew coming into this season that we really had nowhere to go but up, but not in my wildest dreams did I think we would have the amazing season we have had."

There is no doubt the additions of free agents like first basemen Mike Napoli and outfielder Shane Victorino made a difference. However, the biggest surprise maybe the improved play of David Ortiz, known as "Big Papi." Ortiz led the team in batting average (.309), home runs (30), and RBIs (103).



Red Sox celebrating their Game 2 win in the ALCS
Image: sports.yahoo.com

As the first place Red Sox entered the postseason, they appeared the team to beat. AL East rival, the Tampa Bay Rays, learned this the hard way as they were swept in three games by the Red Sox in the American League Division Series. Both Lester and Ortiz led the barrage against the Rays. Lester pitched a fantastic game only allowing two runs in his start and Ortiz smacked two home runs in the series to power the offense. Overall, the Rays didn't provide enough firepower to bother the confident-looking Red Sox. However, their next opponent would be the Detroit Tigers who were riding high after coming back to win from a 2-1 series deficit against the Oakland Athletics.

The first game against the Tigers proved just how tough this team would be. The Red Sox came two outs away from being no-hit by the Tigers pitching staff, led by starting pitcher Anibal Sanchez. After having decent production out of the lineup against the Rays in the series before, all of a sudden they went cold. This carried into Game 2 where they faced 21 game-winner, Max Scherzer, who throws a blazing fastball and a vicious curve ball. The Red Sox were puzzled by Scherzer all night until Tigers manager Jim Leyland made a call to the bullpen.

Down 5-1 in the eighth inning, the Red Sox called on their best hitter of the year and one of the most clutch post-season hitters of all-time to pull them out of this jam. This player was "Big Papi". With the bases loaded, Ortiz found a way to turn on an inside fastball and blasted it into the night sky into the bullpen in front of the right field bleachers.

In a blink of an eye, the Red Sox tied the score. They'd eventually win in a walk-off fashion in the bottom of the ninth with a hit to left field by catcher, Jarrod Saltalamacchia. WNE Junior business student, PJ Nassar, remembers the miraculous game 2 comeback win.

"The game 2 win was amazing. I was actually driving when Ortiz hit the grand slam and almost drove off the road!" said Nassar.

Without Ortiz stepping up, the Red Sox may have trailed the series 2-0 heading back to Detroit. Ortiz added to his unprecedented postseason accomplishments with one swing of the bat. Martinez added his reaction of Ortiz's clutch homerun.

"I don't think I've ever screamed so loud in my life. That is how he got the name Big Papi, by coming through in the most clutch situations," said Martinez.

The Red Sox carried this momentum into Game 3 in Detroit, stealing a 1-0 victory over the Tigers second ace Justin Verlander. John Lackey came through again pitching shut-out ball into the seventh inning. Despite the Tigers coming back to win Game 4, the Red Sox found a way to bounce back in Game 5 and win in Detroit, 4-3, bringing a 3-2 series lead back to Boston. How fitting would it be if they were to close it out at home.

Just like in Game 2, the Red Sox found themselves trailing late in the game. With the score being 2-1 in the seventh inning, the Red Sox found a way to capitalize with the bases. This time the hero of the night would be Shane Victorino. Down in the count 0-2, Victorino crushed a grand slam into the Green Monster seats to put the Red Sox in front 5-2. They never looked back. Eventual ALCS MVP Koji Uehara, closed it in the ninth for his third save against the Tigers. It's been a story-book year, and for Red Sox fans they hope it can translate to their eighth World Series title. Senior Megan Feeney from south of Boston believes in her team.

"Coming from the Boston area, I know that Boston sports fans will follow their home teams for better or worse, though we hope for the better," said Feeney.

A World Series would not just do Red Sox fans like Feeney, Nassar, and Martinez proud, but it would be something anyone could admire.

WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE IT, THANK YOU!

THANKS GO OUT TO FEMA FOR INFORMATION USED IN LAST ISSUE'S FIRE SAFETY ARTICLE.

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Spring Musical announced: Urinetown

By: Alissa Doiron

The 2014 Musical title has just been released: *URINETOWN.*

Urinetown is a sarcastic comedy inspired by a Greg Kotis novel written in 2001. It has become quite popular , winning 3 Tony Awards. This musical has become one of the best parts of Musical Theatre to appear on Broadway.

The musical is a story that incorporates greed, corruption, love, and revolution in a time when none of them were accepted. A 20 year drought had led to government to ban the use of personal toilets. There was one hero who decided he could end the use of only public bathrooms. This story presents factors that are crazily

Stageless Players will perform Urinetown next Spring
Image: rentoncivictheatre.org/urinetown/

weird and would be risky to act upon, as the government did in the musical.

Urinetown has been growing in both curiosity and popularity so much that it has been put on at UMASS Amherst twice. Being performed by the Stageless Players, this is one musical that students simply cannot miss.

Student participant Kaylene Hersey explained, "I am really excited for the musical this year." Kaylene performed in last year's musical and is planning to audition for this year's musical, too. This was an experience for Kaylene to meet new people and explore her abilities to perform and sing.

Urinetown was chosen because it is filled with fun and laughter. It is something that the audience will be interested in and will definitely enjoy.

Hillary Bucs, Associate Professor of Drama and Musical Director stated that with the help of the chorus and music club at WNE, "this musical will be a hilarious parody of musical theories that satirizes musicals such as *Les Miserobles*, *West Side Story*, *ond Fiddler On The Roof* to name a

Continued on page 2

WNE becomes affiliated with Twitter

By: Kaylene Hersey

In the past few weeks, campus has been rocked by another two WNE anonymous Twitter pages, WNE crushes and WNE secrets.

The concept of these Twitter pages are that students can post messages about either things that have happened on campus or about students on campus anonymously. It started out as a good idea, sending positive messages about a person or sharing inside jokes on campus. The problem that has come up is whether or not these pages are appropriate, since some of the posts are not the nicest things.

"I think there are less offensive remarks than good comments, but the good ones don't outweigh the bad ones because they are really mean and can be very hurtful," said Junior Natalie Mandel.

It has even come to some of the professors attention. One concerned professor said, "My fear or concern is that students that

Some Twitter pages, despite disclaimers, seem to be linked to our campus
Image: Twitter.com/WNECrushes

are popular get wonderful, positive reviews, but students who aren't 'popular' won't have such a positive experience. I think it is essentially cyber-bullying. When I look at the students in my class, I see the ones that struggle socially already. College is already hard enough with all the social aspects and games that students have to play. Why add more to that?"

The professor also said "It's similar to rate my professor. I never look at that. I look at my evaluations at the end of the semester and judge my teaching on those because those are actually valid measurements for evaluation of my character and teaching ability."

The other big issue is whether or not something like this should be associated with our school. WNE secrets allows students to post anonymously about different things that have happened on campus, such as illegal drinking, big parties, and even references to drugs. This can cause an issue since people outside the WNE community, especially students and parents looking at attending the school could see this and it could change their opinion of the school. When it comes to WNE crushes, prospective students could see these Twitter pages as cyber-bullying, and it could turn them off to applying and attending Western New

Continued on page 2

News & Entertainment

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Musical continued from first page

few."

As mentioned above, Bucs and the rest of the theatrical producers are going to be collaborating with the chorus and musical department for the first time in WNE history. This will be a huge aspect that will make this musical so much more realistic and entertaining.

Kaylene also said, "I think the theatre and choir working together will add a new element to the performance and will help to build a stronger community with the arts programs."

Bucs then spoke on how the actors and backstage workers will perform, "They will do great things because they never fail to raise to a challenge." She is certainly not alone in thinking that this musical will go out with a bang and will blow the roof off of Sleith Hall.

There is something in this musical for everyone to get involved. This is also the first time in WNE history that auditions are in the fall so that practicing can begin.

Auditions will be held Nov. 18 in Sleith 100 between 5 and 8 p.m. Students will need to sign up in Student Activities to reserve their ten minute audition. Auditions must be of Broadway songs and students should know that they can also receive credits for participating.

If students wish to participate, please sign up or contact Hillary Bucs at Hillary.Bucs@wne.edu.

WNE Twitter continued from first page

England.

"I think it being associated with the school is a bad thing. It isn't run by the school but because it has WNE in the title, it still is affiliated with the school and the school shouldn't be connected with the dumb things that are posted on these pages," said Junior Stefani Feole.

Some students defend the pages and believe that others are overreacting.

"It's not meant to be mean. It's not strangers talking about you. It's friends writing about other friends and they're joking around," said Junior Andrew Galisa.

Most of the students that defend the Twitter pages claim that it is all in good fun and not meant to be taken as bullying. Any mean comments are actually jokes and the people they are directed to are aware of the fact that they are jokes.

"It's for entertainment and it's about people we know so it makes it funny," said Galisa.

However, not everyone is buying that excuse, specifically professors.

"It becomes a game and I try to avoid that type of stuff and I feel bad for students that live by that type of entertainment," said one professor.

The pages are still running. There has not yet been any action taken to deactivate the Twitter accounts.

TV Review: Arrow, season 2

By: Robert Gilchrist

When it first premiered last October on the CW, I was less than enthused with the show "Arrow." It felt like it was written by someone who had read too many comics and hadn't looked at what could work for TV. Unnecessary voiceovers led the way of complaints, along with tired styles of storytelling and a slightly-too-segmented feel to early episodes. Ultimately, the show couldn't figure out what it wanted to be, or where it wanted to go.

Talking with a lot of people over last Christmas break, a good many people said they had started watching it only to drop it after a few weeks. They agreed with me in that it didn't know what it wanted to be. Being a fan of DC Comics and their various properties, I decided to stick with the show and see where it went. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I made in regards to my TV viewing last season.

The show focuses on Oliver Queen, known in the comic book world as Green Arrow, who after five years stranded on a "deserted" island returns to his hometown of Starling City to rid it of the criminals who have made it their stomping ground. Queen, known as "The Hood" by the local authorities, must reconnect with his family and friends after years of being presumed dead, and trying to honor his deceased father's memory by upstaging a mysterious plot Oliver's dad was involved in.

It wasn't until after the midseason finale (titled "Year's End") that the series began to find its way. The series began to focus less and less on the run-of-the-mill superhero, tropes of the hero being chased by the police and having to trust in only a few faithful confidants, and started focusing on larger stories and building up the characters. By the end of the season, the show had hit its stride, and now with season 2 currently airing the show is as good as it has ever been.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the resurgence of the show has been lead actor Stephen Amell's portrayal of Oliver. Amell sells both aspects of Queen's life, from being a careless airhead playboy, to being someone tortured by the things he's had to do in the name of survival and justice. A new aspect of season 2 has been Oliver's quest to give up killing criminals, which had been a staple of his activities during season 1. Amell is able to make the viewer understand his decisions without seeming too "hero-esque" about it. You'd believe he was a real guy trying to atone for past mistakes he's made.

The writing has also managed to jump forward leaps and bounds as the show has progressed. Main show runners Andrew Kreisberg, Greg Berlanti, and Marc Guggenheim have managed to find a strong blend of character development and action-packed sequences to flow together. Gone (for the most part) are choppy and segmented episodes. Now, even minor throwaway episodes have some level of importance to them.

It also helps that Geoff Johns, Chief Creative Officer and prolific comic book writer of DC Comics fame, has written several episodes for the show. Having one of the most influential minds in comics today working on the show certainly helps bring in fans of the books. Not only that, but with Johns' style of being able to get to the heart of a character within a few lines of dialogue makes even the casual fans sit up and take notice of his writing.

The show has been alluded to being too much like the Christopher Nolan "Dark Knight" films, with a more realistic style of storytelling being taken with the series (not to mention the allusion to a certain villain in the most recent episode.) However, this is soon to change as the series will be introducing "powers" with the introduction of the character of The Flash (which could lead to a new TV series for that character next year.) By pushing forward and not staying the same, it keeps viewers on their toes and prevents the series from getting stagnant.

"Arrow" may have started out slow and lost viewers because of its uncertainty on what it wanted to be. But now the show has hit its stride with strong performances, deft writing, and interesting and exciting things on the horizon. The show is currently available through instant streaming on Netflix, and the current season is only three episodes old, so you still have time to re-experience it (or see it for the first time) in order to watch it on a weekly basis if you wanted.

Entertainment

Comic Book Review: Sandman Overture #1 by Gaiman and Williams

By: Robert Gilchrist

Gaiman's return to the Sandman series with J.H. Williams III
Image: Robert Gilchrist

It has been close to ten years since Neil Gaiman has written a single word bubble for the character that defined his career. Now he's back. Gaiman, alongside artist extraordinaire J.H. Williams III, bring new life to the character of Morpheus in the new miniseries "Sandman Overture." While not as strong as the original series, it still is a welcome return for one of comics' most prolific characters.

The original series of "Sandman" ran from the late eighties through the mid-nineties, and told the story of Morpheus (AKA Dream), one of the Endless, as he returns from a decades-long imprisonment and longs to change his ways. The series still stands as one of the most critically-acclaimed pieces of graphic storytelling, and is regarded by many to transcend the comic book medium and be regarded as pure literature.

While there have been tie-in stories written by Gaiman after the conclusion of the main series, "Overture" is perhaps the most connected to the main story. Celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first issue, this new mini-series focuses on the time in Morpheus' life right before his imprisonment in the very first issue of the main series and the events that made him so easy to be captured.

While "Overture" is beautifully written, to the point of reading more like a novel as opposed to a comic, it still suffers from the main flaw of first issues. The book mainly focuses on setting events in motion for later issues. While Gaiman is an expert at manipulating these characters so many know and love, the reader is left with a sense of disappointment that more did not happen within the pages of the book. For a bi-monthly comic that won't see the next issue released until late December, this may annoy some readers.

However, J.H. Williams III's art is worth the price of admission alone. Having made his name on books like "Promethea" and "Batwoman," Williams seemed the perfect choice to render the Dream King and his world for this new series, and boy does he deliver. His page layouts are so intricate and detailed that there are points that might leave the reader wondering if they're actually reading a comic book. Digressing from using traditional panel layouts for more unique and original visuals (one page has all the panels shaped into the letters of Dream's name,) Williams invites the reader to truly explore each page in detail.

Gaiman's words and Williams' art come together so beautifully on the page that it's a wonder they didn't unite to tell a story of this medium before. Most people, when they hear the words "comic book," think of superheroes and silly plotlines. But the level of care and attention to detail that these two masters weave throughout this book gives the reader a feeling of reading a fairy tale instead of a comic. This truly says something about the level of skill these two creators wield.

To compare "Overture" to the original series would do the book an injustice. Comparing any book to the original "Sandman" series would do that book an injustice. That series has been studied and praised by fans and critics for decades, so any new series will initially be regarded as inferior. However, this is perhaps one of the best companion pieces Gaiman has written to the series since its conclusion. One issue in, it's easy to tell that the series will be regarded (one day) as one of the best tie-ins to the main series ever produced.

Twenty-five years ago, "The Sandman" saw its first issue published by Vertigo Comics. By the time it concluded with issue seventy-five, it had become a landmark in graphic storytelling and had cemented Gaiman as a highly prolific fantasy writer. To celebrate the silver anniversary of that landmark issue, Vertigo has released the new miniseries "Sandman Overture." While not as strong as most would like it to be, it still serves to remind readers why they fell in love with these characters so many years ago and why people still fall in love with them to this very day.

Movie Review: Carrie

By: Nick Palmer

With the ever-expanding need to satiate our nostalgic appetite for sequels and updates, many films fall short of a consummate tribute on their path to imitation rather than emulation of their predecessors, specifically within the realm of horror. As many classic and iconic baddies fall prey to overindulgent and tactless ad hominem from pedantic screenwriters who fear that new audiences simply won't get it, their character loses the thrilling edge and cinematic presence they once had. And true, while it was out of the horror grand master Stephen King's mouth that rose the question "Why remake it when the original is so good?", the newest adaptation of the novel and 1976 cult classic "Carrie" proves to be a tasteful and well-executed homage to the original film that manages to give an honest and delivering adaptation without succumbing to placatory gimmicks for a newer audience. While it feels that everything discordant and all the nagging weirdness and strange feelings surrounding the original have been smoothed down, leaving us with a highly satisfying yet cursory high school revenge movie, director Kimberley Pierce acknowledged her challenge with making such an abuse ridden tale of loneliness and anger (in such a thin-skinned social climate) with grace without turning it into a pandering hour and a half anti-bullying campaign. Although the newest version lacks the brutality and depth of the original source material, we see a young and eager Chloe Grace Moretz blowing stuff up while giving a 100-minute curtsy to the iconic character without drowning her in 2013 nuanced euphemism. Her strong performance, though not as chillingly weird as Sissy Spacek's tour de force role in the original, and perhaps not the one to launch her into stardom just yet, was well received amidst a backdrop of characters that have been considerately refreshed for a new generation of viewers without sullying them in hyper-culturalized metaphor. Just barely being saved from didactic obscurity and competently gravitating to its potential, "Carrie" gives a solid tip of the hat to the original film without deviating from the inherent themes and, even almost 40 years later, still proves to be a blood-drenched good time. Overall, I would give this rendition of the film 3 out of 5 stars.

Features

Beer Review: Wormtown Hopulance American Double IPA

By: Chris Principato

This week's beer review is brought to you by the letter H. Many great words start with the letter H, such as hippopotamus, helicopter, habanero, and Hopulence. Though the latter may not be a word in the dictionary, Wormtown Brewery in Worcester, MA begs to differ. That is why I am starting a letter writing campaign to those word-jockeys at Webster, to make Hopulence a part of all major spelling bees and college papers.

Hopulence: Adjective, used to describe the pure essence of hops. Heavily and properly hopped beers over 100 IBU's are said to show "hopulence."

Wormtown Brewery's Hopulance American Double IPA does in fact show "hopulence." Upon the approach of this brew, the use of 9 different varieties of hops give this IPA an extremely floral nose. The 8.5% ABV is also present on the nose, but not so much to cover the rich floral hops. When the first sip is taken the nose develops into a semi-sweet alcohol essence accompanied by steady hops flavor. The continuous addition of hops is prevalent in this IPA. Just as hops are added to this brew during every stage of the brewing process, their bitter presence is enjoyed throughout the whole drinking experience. Due to the high alcohol content in this brew, the finish leaves the palate with a dry yet hoppy linger.

Wormtown's very hoppy brew, Hopulance
Image: Chris Principato

Note: All students consuming alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

4.5/5 Beers

Weighing in at a solid 120 IBU's and 8.5% ABV, this brew is palatable to everyone from a newcomer to an experienced beer enthusiast. The semi-sweet alcohol flavor is pleasant to an inexperienced beer drinker while the constant hop essence is enjoyed by the experienced. Unlike most double IPAs, Hopulance captures the essence of hops by not overwhelming the senses with an extremely hoppy nose or finish. Hops are used properly to give the drinker an experience unparalleled to any IPA. Due to all of these factors, Wormtown Brewery's Hopulance American Double IPA shall receive 4.5 out of 5 beers. Perfect food pairings for this almost perfect double IPA is anything Smokey such as a smoked beef brisket or delicious savory smoked bacon. Don't forget to send your Hopulence letters into Webster, enjoy this 8.5% ABV beer responsibly, and take time to enjoy your local fare.

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

On 10/5/2013, at about 10 p.m., Officers responded to the rear Alumni Healthful Living Center parking lot for a report of suspicious activity. The WNE Dispatcher reported having seen two males possibly engaging in illegal substance use. Officers arrived to the area and located the two males, both WNE students, in question. The Officers observed in the vehicle through the passenger side window an unopened beer can. Both persons are under the legal age to procure, possess and consume alcoholic beverages. Through questioning, one of the males admitted to having less than an ounce of marijuana in the vehicle. Both males were determined to be under the influence of intoxicating liquors and subsequently the vehicle was immobilized. The incident was referred to Residence Life for a judicial hearing.

On 10/8/2013, Western New England University Police Department received several reports of vehicles vandalized in the Campus Center Lot. All vehicles involved appeared to have been "keyed" by a metal object from the front of the vehicle extending to the rear. At this time, no suspects have been identified.

On 10/10/2013, at around 10 a.m., a Resident Life employee reported to Western New England University Police he found a dead squirrel on his vehicle. The employee also stated that his vehicle was also vandalized prior to this incident. The employee believed that these incidents are in retaliation to disciplinary sanctions he was involved in. The incident is being investigated and is ongoing.

On 10/18/2013, Officers responded to Hampden Hall for possible drug and alcohol violation. Officer's detected a strong odor of marijuana outside one of the resident's rooms. Officer's knocked on the door and made contact with the resident. As Officer's where speaking with the resident they observed alcohol inside the room. The resident is under the legal age to buy, consume, or transport alcoholic beverages. Officer's continued their investigation and confiscated a small amount of marijuana and alcohol. The incident was referred to Residence Life for a judicial hearing.

On 10/23/2013, Western New England University Police received a wallet that was found by a professor and subsequently turned in. Officers conducted an inventory of the wallet in an attempt to identify the owner. While inventorying the wallet, officer's observed a false identification card in it and a Rhode Island Driver's license that identified the owner. Officer's made contact with the owner and inquired about the false identification. The owner admitted that the false identification was hers and used it to purchase alcohol. The owner was advised an Affidavit of Person Obtaining License/Identification Document which will be forwarded to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. The incident was referred to Residence Life for a judicial hearing.

Reminder, pleasc make sure that your E2 campus account is active. Also, make sure that you have checked the box to receive WNE Weather Alerts regarding cancelations and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSESR.pdf

Features

College Bites: Koffee Kup

By: Kaylene Hersey

Some of the sweet treats Koffee Kup has to offer
Image: Matt Johnston

So, this week, I wanted to switch it up. Don't get me wrong - I love going to restaurants and eating awesome food and learning new things to cook - but my first food love would have to be sweets. So, my challenge was to find a nice bakery. Koffee Kup, located on Liberty Street in Springfield, was a tasty stop.

This is one place you cannot judge from the outside. It looks really run down from the outside, and the inside isn't anything special, but I promise the treats make up for it. And the price will make you leave with a bigger smile.

There were a wide range of pastries, cookies and other desserts. Some of the best desserts were their cannolis, cupcakes and pastry puffs.

The first thing I tried was their cupcakes. There were plain vanilla and chocolate cupcakes, and then they had some seasonal flavored ones like orange and maple. The plain vanilla and chocolate frosting weren't anything spectacular but the cake itself was extremely fluffy and airy, the way cake should be made. The maple cupcakes tasted like pound cake and were really light.

The maple frosting wasn't too strong, just the right amount to get the flavor in the cupcake, but not for it to overwhelm the cupcake.

The next thing I suggest is the raspberry cream pastry. It is whip cream and raspberry filling sandwiched between two pastry halves and white powder sprinkled all over. This was spectacular; probably the best thing I tried there. It wasn't too sweet. The whip cream cut through the sweetness of the pastry and raspberry filling. It makes it have a very even balance in taste.

The lemon, raspberry and apple squares were also very tasty. I think they were baked very nicely, and you only need a small piece, which is great if you're one to worry about calories. The fruit tasted fresh and not bitter, like frozen fruit generally tastes when baked. And the price for them was great. Only 50¢.

The item I wouldn't suggest is the éclair. It wasn't that they were extremely bad. It just wasn't that special. I felt there wasn't that good of a ratio of cream to pastry. It felt too dry for my liking. It didn't help that the pastry was kind of dry and wasn't fluffy enough, but I find this issue with many éclairs. I'm still looking for a good éclair.

Like I said before, the prices are great. When I first heard of the place, I expected to spend $20.00 for maybe four items but instead, I got around ten desserts for about $10.00. I say that is a great deal. Koffee Kup is definitely not a one-time place for me.

Fire safety involving cooking fires

By: Officer Monica Viegas

How and When to Fight Cooking Fires:

• When in doubt, just get out. When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.

• If you do try to fight the fire, be sure others are already getting out and you have a clear path to the exit.

• Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.

• In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.

• If you have a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. Unplug the appliance if you can safely reach the outlet.

• After a fire, both ovens and microwaves should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.

If Your Clothes Catch Fire:

If your clothes catch fire: stop, drop and roll. Stop immediately, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth to put out the fire. Immediately cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes and cover with a clean, dry cloth. Don't apply creams, ointments, sprays or other home remedies.

Prevent Scalds and Burns:

• To prevent spills due to overturn of appliances containing hot food or liquids, use the back burner when possible and/or turn pot handles away from the stove's edge. All appliance cords need to be kept coiled and away from counter edges.

• Use oven mitts or potholders when moving hot food from ovens, microwave ovens, or stovetops. Never use wet oven mitts or potholders as they can cause scald burns.

• Replace old or worn oven mitts.

• Treat a burn right away, putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. If the burn is bigger than your fist or if you have any questions about how to treat it, seek medical attention right away.

Club constitutions 101

Attentian all WNE clubs and organizatians! On Thursday, Nov. 14, at 6 p.m. in the Bear's Den, the Student Senate Legislative Committee is halding an infarmatianal sacial abaut club canstitutians. At least ane member fram each club must attend; this daes nat necessarily need ta be a member of the club's executive board. This is alsa a great appartunity far anyane interested in starting a club ta learn abaut club canstitutians and ask questians. Fall refreshments will be pravided! Everyane attending must RSVP ta Legislative Chairpersan, Sarah Wiles (sarah.wiles@wne.edu) na later than Friday, Nav. 8, at 5 p.m.

Features & Opinion

Theft prevention around the holidays

By: Lt. Michael Purcell

Thefts typically increase around the holiday season. It's the time of year where people are out spending money on gifts and going to restaurants or shows. It is also the time of year where thieves are likely to take your money and valuables. Don't let that happen. Keep yourself, your money and your valuables safe.

So here are some personal safety tips that you should use no matter where you are and at all times of the year.

* Always keep your doors locked at all times. Never leave your doors open or unlocked when you leave your room or apartment and lock your windows. It only takes a few seconds for a thief to take valuables from your room.

* Keep receipts, make-model-serial numbers, from the electronics that you own, i.e. laptops, cellphones, electronic tablets, etc. in case the items are stolen. This information is important for police to help retrieve the item.

* Do not prop open exterior doors to your dorm building. This invites crime.

* Never open your door to a stranger. Use your peephole to see who is at the door before you open it.

* Keep your car doors locked while you are driving to prevent a carjacking. Keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up while the car is parked. Remove valuables from the interior of your car. Thieves like to window shop vehicles to see what you have of value. A vehicle alarm system is recommended.

* Never give your name, address, charge card number or Social Security number to an unknown caller.

* Do not show large amounts of cash or wear a lot of jewelry in public.

* Be aware of your surroundings where ever you go.

* Walk with a buddy at night and be aware of the high crime areas in cities and towns.

* Keep your cell phone with you. You should have important numbers dialed in to your phone in case of an emergency.

* Report suspicious activity to the police.

You are part of the University community and the Springfield community. You are the eyes and ears in helping to protect your community and yourself. Report crime. Be safe.

Important phone numbers: Western New England University Police, 413-782-1207 (Business line) and 413-782-1411 (Emergency line)

Qualms & Quarrels: Advice Column

Q 1 : I've been having a lot of trouble with my roommate this semester. We can't seem to see eye to eye on stuff. She eats some of my food, hogs the bathroom in the morning, and always wants me to leave the room so her boyfriend can come over. We used to be really close friends and now this is happening. What should I do?

–Stressed Roomie

A: Roomie, I'm sad to say that this is a common problem that many college students face with their roommates. Even the best of friends can have a falling out when they decide to live together because it's not always the best of decisions. Here are a few things you can do to try to fix the situation.

I know this will not sound easy, but the first thing you need to do is bring up your concerns to your roommate. It will be difficult, maybe a bit uncomfortable, and it's probably not something you want to address, but it has to be done. Sit your roommate down, just the two of you, and tell her exactly what has been bothering you. Then, openly talk about the issue and any concerns she might have about you as her roommate. This will help clear the air so there is no underlying tension between the two of you. Explain to your roommate that you two are still friends, but that it will be continually difficult to live together if she continues acting a certain way. Do not attack her and call her out on what she has been doing by yelling at her; that won't solve anything.

If talking to her does not work, you can always go to your RA or the RD of your residence hall and they will do everything they can to help you out. If the problem progresses, talk to them about switching rooms within your residence hall if there is another room available.

If your roommate is truly your friend, she will understand where you're coming from and try to work with you so that you both have a better living situation.

Additionally, if you continue to find it is hard to live with your friend, consider talking to some of your other friends before deciding on housing for next year. Sometimes you are better off just being friends with someone rather than roommates, and that is ok. Good luck, Roomie. I hope that you are able to work everything out and have a peaceful living situation for the rest of the year!

Q 2: I feel like one of my professors is picking on me and giving me bad grades because they don't like me. I have no idea what I should do… can you help?
–Worried Wally

A: Well reader, this is a tough one because, as you would probably guess, if you can't prove that he or she is picking on you with verifiable evidence, not too much is going to be done, unfortunately. But I have some suggestions for you that can hopefully help anyway. For one thing, I strongly encourage you to speak to your professor one on one and express your concerns. I know that may seem really intimidating, but if you really feel like they have something against you, you should discuss why so that your professor can see your side of the situation. If that doesn't work, or if you still feel picked on, you should speak to the dean of whichever college you are a part of and express your concerns to them about this particular professor so that they can try to amend the situation the best way they see possible. The one thing I urge you not to do is go around asking other students if they feel the same way or go around telling other students that this professor has it out for you. That will only create a much bigger mess than is necessary and you will look like the guilty party; you don't want that. I wish you luck and hope that everything turns out for the best!

International Education Week: November 11th -15th

Monday: Jeopardy! 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Rock Café

Tuesday: Study Abroad & International Student Panel: Hear from past study abroad participants and current international student about what it's like to live in another country from 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in CSP 300.

Wednesday: Movie night: Ever wonder what it is like to live in a new country? Come see "Amreeka": 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in CSP 400 and find out

Thursday: Faculty Study Abroad Programs Showcase: 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Campus Center Mall

Friday: International Student Fair: Discover the countries represented on WNE's campus at the 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. in the Campus Center Mall

Sports

Out with a bang

By: Christopher Quigley

The progress of the past two years has been nothing short of staggering. The Western New England University Rugby Club has scratched and clawed its way from being non-affiliated and obscure to being one of the toughest and most respected teams in the most competitive conference in Division III collegiate rugby. Through the blood, sweat and tears of this year's seniors and the coaching of Rob Guiry, this squad of misfits has gained the respect and recognition of the university, the conference, and the rugby community at large.

WNE Rugby finished this season with a 5-2 record; a record that any other year would have put them in the conference championship match. Those two losses came to Salve Regina University and Roger Williams University, who last year were ranked 3rd and 9th in the nation, respectively. Wins included hard-fought victories over UMass Dartmouth and Wheaton, and blowout wins over Wentworth, Endicott, and Mass Maritime. Here's a quick statistic to show just how well this fall season went for your friendly neighborhood ruggers: in the last 4 games of the season, WNE Rugby outscored their opponents by a margin of 192-50. WNE Rugby is awaiting national rankings for this year and expects a top 15 or even top 10 finish, something that would have sounded ludicrous only two years ago.

This epic turnaround from last season was due in no small part to the contributions of this year's seniors who included team captains Zach Phelan and Craig Spyropoulos (also the leading scorer with 11 tries, an all-time program record). Other players include Ryan Shultz, Timmy Smith, Steve Farnham, Tom Notchick, Jake Eastman, Ryan Donovan, Jeff Sherman, Eric Johnson, Mitch Cardillo, Mike Schaeffer, Dom Facchini, Griffin King, and Alex Rios. The team would be in no way near the shape it is in today without the hard work and sacrifices made by these ruggers. I would highly recommend giving them great big hugs if you see any of them on campus. Especially Shultz.

In an interview with head coach Rob Guiry, I gained insight into the future of WNE Rugby. Suffice to say, the success of this year isn't nearly enough. This spring, WNE Rugby comes back twofold with both a 15s season and the quest for a national championship in rugby 7s. The 7s team ended last season ranked 5th nationally, and hopes to improve on that come spring. Most of the seniors will be giving their efforts to our 7s team to allow the underclassmen to prepare the 15s squad for next fall. Although the team has lost many important players, it has been left in capable hands. Returning starters will include Scott Sedgwick, Zach LeHouiller, Bobby MacKay, Alexander Mackie, and Greg Porter. This team is going to need every ounce of fan support come next fall, and the WNE fan base is undoubtedly going to give them more than they will ever need.

Anyone on campus interested in joining the ranks of WNE Rugby needs only to talk to Rob Guiry or anyone on the team. All are welcome and anyone looking to find a sport that will change their college experience should look no further.

Coach Guiry put it best, saying, "Rugby is an experience that you can't get playing any other sport. The tight-knit camaraderie is unparalleled. It's the most fun sport you'll ever play. It's physical, fat guys get to score, and you'll never play another sport like it. It's truly one of a kind."

Having played for this team myself and experienced WNE rugby firsthand, I can wholeheartedly agree. I can say nothing more than that I personally could not be more excited to return for the spring. So just wait for spring, WNE Rugby superfans, because this team is just getting started.

Golden Bears running back makes history

By: Michael Masciadrelli

Running back, Kevin Cook, #24, hos recieved recognition for his performance
Imoge: wnegoldenbears.com

The Golden Bears had a battle on their hands in a cool, Saturday afternoon football showdown against MIT. With it being October 26th, it fit right in with WNE's annual Family and Friends Weekend. Many players had their parents, brothers, sisters, and friends from home cheering them on from the stands. Despite the end result now going their way, one player on the Golden Bears had a performance to smile about.

To begin the game, the Golden Bears started off slow. The offense wasn't in sync, but the defense held their ground holding MIT to only 10 points in the first half. After heading into halftime down 10-0, something changed.

Within five minutes, the running game for the Bears exploded. Junior Kevin Cook, ran for two touchdowns early in the third quarter which sparked Western New England to a 14-10 advantage. Fans were screaming, ringing cow bells, and applauding Cook's stellar rushes.

Cook climbed three spots in the all-time scoring list with two touchdowns, putting him at third place behind Jordan Capitanio (2005-08) who has 244 points. All together he ran for a career-high 164 yards on 31 attempts. It puts him at 2,361 yards for his career and pushes him closer to fourth on the all-time WNE Football rushing list.

The defense for the Golden Bears was led by sophomore linebacker Nathan Flaming who tied a career high in tackles, with 17.

In their last home game against Curry, the Golden Bears bounced back nicely. The Golden Bears responded with a 38-27 victory against their conference rival, capping off a season-long three game homestand. It put them at 3-5 overall on the season, with a 2-3 conference record. Kevin Cook stood out again for the Golden Bears on offense, racking up 151 yards. The win ties Western New England with Curry in the conference standings. The Golden Bears travel to Beverly, MA to play Endicott next Saturday November 9th, in another important in-conference game.

INTERESTED IN SPORTS?
LOVE GOING OUT AND SUPPORTING THE GOLDEN BEARS?
HAVE A KNACK FOR JOURNALISM OR WRITING IN GENERAL?
THE WESTERNER WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!
WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANY STUDENTS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN SPORTS OR SPORTS JOURNALISM WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO WRITE ONE WNE SPORTS RELATED ARTICLE PER ISSUE.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT US AT WESTERNER@WNECLUBS.ORG
OR JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR MEETINGS HELD EVERY OTHER THURSDAY AT 8:00P.M. IN RIVERS 105.

Sports

Paul Lambert speaks to WNE

By: Sean McGuire

Paul Lambert spoke to the students of Western New England University on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013 in an event sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Lambert who had previously worked with the National Basketball Association (NBA) for 11 years as director of Event Production, now works with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. as the Vice President of Guest Experience and Programming.

Lambert grew up in the Boston area of Massachusetts and was connected with the sport of basketball at a very young age. He attributed his passion for the game to his father who used to bring him to local area college games, and even an occasional Celtics game.

Lambert grew up keeping his interest in basketball, but says he owes much of his success to his theater career as he became older. He attended Boston College, double majoring in English and Theater, which later led him to become a stage manager, working with technical aspects.

While addressing his former career and aspirations, he told the audience, "The jobs I've had have allowed me to be creative. I love putting on big shows, I love entertaining people." He continued, "You don't know the path your life will take. It's full of a lot of twists and turns and I've had a lot of jobs... Just stay fresh, keep learning, and keep your horizons open."

Lambert didn't begin working with the NBA full time. Instead, he worked All-Star breaks as the coordinator of the event, working with hotels and businesses.

"I loved traveling and doing events anywhere that they sent me," he said. After having such a positive impact on the All-Star break he was asked to work alongside the NBA. However, year after year, Lambert would thankfully deny the opportunity given to him because he enjoyed what he was doing with theater.

Soon, his family life started to evolve with the addition of his younger sons. Much like the role Lambert's father played in his life, he wanted to be there for his sons, instead of out on the road working shows. That's when Lambert decided to go from one huge stage to another, deciding it was finally time to accept the opportunity given to him by the NBA.

Lambert talked about being around the NBA in some of its' greatest years. While talking about the birth of the "Dream Team" in the 1992 Olympics, he said, "It wasn't anything I've ever seen… [the opponents] were so happy to just be on the court with these guys… they would even ask for autographs." He added, "The game absolutely exploded as a sport and pop culture after that."

Lambert, soon however, changed jobs again, while starting to work with the Hall of Fame in Springfield. He originally became involved with the Basketball Hall of Fame by working some of their events, like the Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement. The first step toward his new position was introducing a discussion about starting an events management job at the incoming Hall of Fame; established in 2002.

"I wasn't looking for a job at the time, I was just having a conversation over a beer," said Lambert.

This conversation, however, would soon lead to a new job offer. He began working with the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2002 and has thoroughly enjoyed his experience so far.

Lambert's knowledge on basketball stretched back to the beginning when the sport was first invented. He told the audience on how James Naismith first invented basketball while working as a physical education teacher, with a ball and a peach basket. Lambert quoted Naismith while saying, "He believed if you had a healthy body, then you had a healthy mind and if you had a healthy mind, you had a healthy spirit." Lambert went on to share facts about basketball including that on December 21, 1891, the first basketball game was played.

He explained to the audience, "At the Hall of Fame, were not just a sports history museum. It's a small city, but a global game."

Lambert concluded by providing some advice to students at Western New England.

"Things change, don't lock yourself in, stay open," said Lambert. "Try and work somewhere doing some part of the job. Stay optimistic, I hope it's an exciting time for everyone."

Poetry, comedy and improve all in one! Come out for the night and enjoy a unique and entertaining performance that will liven up your day! On Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00p.m. in The Rock Café, CAB's Diversity and Alternative Entertainment committee will present The Dynamic Duo! Mixing slam poetry, comedy and improve, The Dynamic Duo brings an engaging and unique performance to the stage. This preforming duo known for their high energy, their trademark performances, comedy and emotional raw poetry, Panama Soweto and Ken Arkind have traveled to and preformed at over 150 colleges and universities.

Their work covers subjects from politics and video games, depression and comic books, racism and relationships proving that poetry can be a powerful vehicle for personal expression and community connection.

This will be a night of entertainment that you do not want to miss! Bring your friends and earn BEAR Points too! We can't wait to see you there!

The Review of Art and Literature here at Western New England University is looking for submissions of student and faculty visual art and writing. If interested, please send submissions to wnereview@gmail.com by December 6, 2013. With each submission email, please include the piece, artist's name, title, year, and major.

WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE IT, THANK YOU!

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Please e-mail:
westerner@wneclubs.org

New group, Divest WNEU, crops up around campus

By: Audrey McKeown

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, Divest WNEU held its first event, a kick off meeting open to all Western New England University students. Divestment campaigns have sprung up in colleges across the country over the past few years. In the beginning of this semester, five students decided to bring the divestment campaign to Western New England. The students came together once a week to discuss ways they could bring this worldwide campaign to Western New England University. Though it was only a thirty minute informational meeting, Divest WNEU explained the goal of their campaign, the aim for Western New England University to divest from fossil fuel companies and why it would be a beneficial change for the school's future.

Divest WNEU went to great lengths to advertise their event and their purpose
Image: Facebook.com/DivestWNEU

During the past month, Divest WNEU has started a petition to present to the president of Western New England's board of trustees. The petition asks the board of trustees to divest from the nonrenewable resource industries and to reinvest in renewable energy. Currently, the members of Divest WNEU have one hundred signatures for the petition. By next semester, they hope to have three hundred and fifty signature to deliver to the president of the board of trustees. Divest WNEU's success relies heavily on the

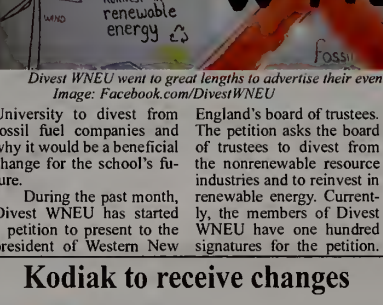
Continued on page 2

Kodiak to receive changes

By: Gennah Borg

Western New England University's online assignment software, Kodiak, is getting a makeover and the project begins this coming summer. Beginning on July 4, 2014, the Desire to Learn management system, which designed Kodiak, will be upgrading Kodiak to give the software a more modern look and feel.

Much like how Apple continually updates their software to stay compatible with their new product models, it is time for Kodiak to update with the university's changing times. Western New England University has only been using this current version of Kodiak, the ninth version created by the Desire to Learn management system, for about three semesters. With that, Kodiak, much like Apple, is trying to keep up with the university students' advancing technology, specifically tablets. With the Kodiak upgrade, the software will be more compatible with the advanced technology



Kodiak might look different by the next fall semester
Image: Kodiak.wne.edu

that has been seen increasingly on campus.

Christopher Jordan, a junior, who has experienced both Manhattan and Kodiak, said, "As long as [the Kodiak upgrade] works more efficiently than it does now, I'm sure it will be received well [campus wide]. If the appearance is the only aspect changing then it will be an irritating change, as was the switch from Manhattan over to Kodiak."

According to Steven Narmontas, the Director of Educational Technology and Training, the new version of Kodiak will be more user-friendly to students and faculty. "No one will ever say, *'I wish we had the old version,'* " said Narmontas.

"Unfortunately, some [professors] are into it and some are not," said Steven Narmontas when asked if professors would be more likely to use the new version.

Just as when the university once switched over from Manhattan, the simple homegrown assignment software system, to Kodiak, the university offered video tutorials on how to navigate and use the new system. Likewise, the university's priority has always been to utilize student resources on campus. In keeping with this theme, the latest version of Kodiak will also offer video tutorials and training videos made available for students and faculty. Additionally, with the latest version of Kodiak, faculty members will have the ability to participate in one on one training sessions so that both new and returning staff members will have the opportunity to learn to use the new Kodiak.

Furthermore, although adjusting to the new formality of Kodiak will be a challenge for some, there is ultimately nowhere to go but up from here as beginning in August, the current version of Kodiak will be unavailable for usage.

"Soon, it will be the

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News

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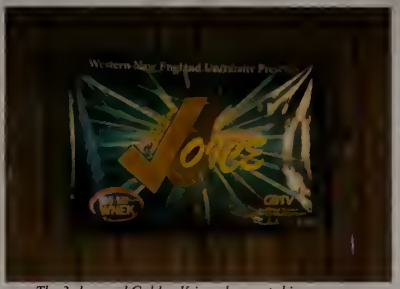
GBTV holds 3rd annual Golden Voice

By: Sarah Wiles

On Friday, Nov. 15, at 9:00 p.m. in Rivers Arena, Golden Bear Television, in junction with WNEK-FM, held the third annual Golden Voice singing competition. The live studio audience, cheering on the competitors, filled the arena while Drew Gowen and Ryan Flemming hosted the event.

Competing for the gold was Kim Wood with Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats," Jacob Harrelson with Dustin Lynch's "She Cranks My Tractor," Alexandria 'Alex' Escrivano with Adele's "Rolling in the Deep," Kaylene Hersey with a Fine Frenzy's "Almost Lover," Frank Maturo, AKA Elvis, "Steamroller Blues," Matthew Johnston singing Gavin Degraw's "Soldier," Jolina Blier with Etta James's classic "At Last," Amy Masi singing Taylor Swift's "Ours," Alyssa Brunski accompanied by her dad on the guitar doing the soulful "House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals, and Christopher Quigley with the epic "Somebody to Love" by Queen.

For his spot-on Elvis impression, Frank Maturo won the audience in the vote for fan favorite. The judges, Dean Keizer and Jamie Larkin from Student Activities along with senior and last year's third place winner Sarah Wiles, awarded third place in the competition to Kaylene Hersey, second place to Jacob Harrolson, and, for her stunning romantic ballad, first place to Jolina Blier.



The 3rd annual Golden Voice, shaw gets bigger every year
Image: Jamie Larkin

Blier stated, "It was a great experience participating with all of the other contestants. Everyone did a great job, and I had a lot of fun."

Jamie Franklin, GBTV's Production Manager, has been working tirelessly with the rest of the crew since last semester to ensure another successful Golden Voice. At the end of the night, Franklin said, "I feel relieved, but also sad, because I put a lot of work into it. That's something I learned about producing things - it does take a lot of hard work and dedication - but it is totally worth it in the end. I want to thank everybody who helped - I could not have done it without them. I am definitely going to produce more in my life."

Junior biomedical engineering major, Dena Navarroli, talked about being in the audience: "I thought it was amazing, and it was a lot of fun. It ran flawlessly, with the projection and cutaways. When Frank made a comment about his mom, they actually showed his mom in the audience, and that was really cool. They were so aware of the audience and everything going on, in addition to their other responsibilities."

Talking about her experience as a first-time judge, Jamie Larkin stated: "This was really fun for me. I work with a lot of students on a constant basis, and it was cool seeing them in a different setting. I also got to see some new faces. All of the talent was amazing."

In speaking about future work with WNEK-FM, Franklin said, "We might collaborate for Mr. University, and if not, definitely Golden Voice next fall."

Franklin concluded, "Golden Voice gets bigger and better every year. We look forward to alumni coming back, maybe being judges. We're going to continue to let this program grow."

Look forward to seeing all of the action again on channel 8.2, where it will air by early December. Always remember to check out GBTV for all your latest WNE updates.

DivestWNE continued from first page

support they get from the campus community since the more active students are in this campaign, the more willing the board of trustees will be to consider divesting from the fossil fuel companies.

If the board decides to approve divestment, Divest WNEU's goal is for the board of trustees to immediately freeze any new investments in the top two hundred fossil fuel industries, divest from the fossil fuel industries the school is currently invested in, and then reinvest in renewable energy funds. Divest WNEU's main concern is the environment; they feel that Western New England should divest from nonrenewable energy companies because they are negatively affecting the environment.

Tim Rapczynski, one of the founding members of Divest WNEU, says that clean energy sources "are on the rise and will promise us a clean future without the worry of the monster that is climate change. They are where our university should be putting its money towards."

Divest WNEU believes that investing in companies that promote renewable energies such as solar, wind, hydro-electric, and geo-thermal will not only benefit the environment, since the use of fossil fuels, mainly coal and oil, have been connected the issue of climate change, but will prove a wise investment for the University as well.

Rapczynski states that "investing in renewable energy sources has proven to be more successful than investments in fossil fuel companies."

When asked what his personal reasons were for founding Divest WNEU, Rapczynski regards this issue as a moral dilemma for the people in this day and age, saying, "I am involved with Divest WNEU because I do not want to see climate change worsen and the fossil fuel industries are not doing anything to stop this. They are continuing to squeeze our planet dry of the remaining crude energy sources, only considering their profit and not what's at stake: our future. Right now Western New England University is investing in these fossil fuel industries, and thus indirectly contributing to climate change."

Divest WNEU has a goal, much like the divestment campaigns across the country, to secure a cleaner future for the world by investing in companies that are environmentally aware of the climate change and crisis happening around the world.

Divest WNEU is not an official club on campus but, according to Rapczynski, they are currently in the process of becoming official since they "foresee holding events and activities in the future to spread the word of divestment."

For right now, the members of Divest WNEU are speaking to clubs on campus, petitioning, and administering teach-ins to help gain support from more students on campus. To learn more about them or join the campaign, you can follow Divest WNEU on both twitter and their respective Facebook page.

News & Entertainment

Kodiak continued from first page

norm," said Steven Narmontas of the students and faculty on campus who are just now adjusting to the current version of Kodiak. The hope is that the campus will not know how to operate without the latest upcoming version of Kodiak.

The new Kodiak upgrade will also be implementing a new approach to utilize its hours of "operation" in terms of updating and fixing minor errors. Currently, Kodiak notifies its users of when it will be unavailable for usage due to technical work. Typically these hours of service are arranged around weekends or holidays when the least amount of students and faculty will be accessing the system. With the Kodiak upgrade, this process will be applied much like how Apple products update their software. The key will be a gradual and transparent update approach to fixing these minor errors to avoid conflicts with student and faculty usage.

Sophomore Lyndsey St. Jean said she is "excited to see the university grow with the changing technology. I think it will be fun to switch things up."

Steven Narmontas says that he recalls when having Ethernet wall jacks was the popular topic on college and university campuses. Today, with our campus WiFi project as well as an upgrade to our online assignment software, Kodiak, Western New England University is definitely trying its best to keep up with the advancing technological world.

Stageless Players presents 'Check Please' and 'Check Please: Take 2'

By: Spencer Ives

"Check Please" and "Check Please: Take 2" brought over 34 students together
Image: Hillary Bucs

Last weekend, the Stageless Players put on a very well-orchestrated production of two one act plays, "Check Please" and "Check Please: Take 2," both written by playwright Jonathan Rand. The cohesion between all the students involved in this play was phenomenal and well organized, with 26 student actors, and nine students focused solely on the production of it- each one of them knew their part and role to play and executed it efficiently. The play was brought together, in part, by the two students directing the show, juniors Danielle Johnson and Sarah Babski.

This pair of plays differed quite greatly, in tone and feel, from the previous year's Stageless Players fall production. Last year's fall show focused on a collection of 10-minute plays, performed as well as written by our own WNE students, with each having an eye set on social change. On a much different note, this year was more focused on creating a buzzing atmosphere with comedic and easy-going sketches of the proverbial 'worst-case-scenarios' in the dating pool.

These sketches had an effect I had certainly not expected. They created a certain sense of comedy with tension. While seeing the caricatures of bad dates on stage, there is, carried with that, the understanding that any farce is on the other side of the spectrum that is connected to reality. And while it is all fine and good to laugh at people who pay no attention what-so-ever to their dates, there is the hidden and far-removed acknowledgement that there are actually people who may come close to that extreme. Though, the Stageless Players did an impeccable job of creating this tension as well as releasing it with good, old-fashioned comic relief.

Yet, there were two downsides to this style of production. The first was that some of the sketches didn't elicit as many laughs as intended creating an awkward half-silence at the punch line. This is more than understandable- not all of the jokes in a play can be gold. This was also quickly counteracted by a shift to another scene that would get the audience laughing even more. The other difficulty was that both of these one-acts focused on the same set-up of joke. As a result, the joke got a bit old by the end of the second play.

All in all, though, it was a really good production, with many actors showing their real talent through coming back on stage as radically different characters. One actor in particular who serves as a great example is Frank Maturo and his appearance in one scene as an internet-centered woman, and then again as a sea-loving pirate. The acting, among the whole cast, was excellent; they created believable and empathetic characters while also grounding their jokes in reality, not ever making them too absurd. The play had a great vibe that really seemed to fit the idea of a fun Friday night, here on campus.

Entertainment & Features

Movie Review: The Counselor

By: Robert Gilchrist

Hyped as a dark, edgy thriller from Ridley Scott, "The Counselor" is a perfect example of poor marketing by a studio. While the film has a strong edge and a fantastic cast, it fails to drag in the viewer and ultimately collapses under the weight of its own expectations.

The film focuses on the actions of a corrupt lawyer known only throughout the film as the "Counselor." As the film progresses, we get a glimpse into the sordid world of criminals, drug trades, and backstabbing deals. Naturally, things end up going south for the Counselor, and he is forced to face the reckoning that his greed has brought not only himself but the people he cares about.

The marketing for this film lacks in that it hypes it as an "edge-of-your-seat" thrill ride, when ultimately it tries to be something more. Characters give deep, almost philosophical speeches about their lives and the way the world works for the lifestyle the characters have chosen. The same thing happened a few years ago with the movie "Drive," and it angered a good deal of filmgoers who were expecting a film about high-intensity racing. Odds are the same thing will happen with "The Counselor."

One aspect of the film that works (to a certain extent) is the cast. With a cast-list of such high-profile stars as Brad Pitt, Penelope Cruz, Michael Fassbender, Cameron Diaz, and Javier Bardem, it doesn't come as a surprise that there will be a few good performances throughout the film. Perhaps the standout though is Bardem, who steals every scene he's in as a business partner/friend/underworld connection to the Counselor. Bardem plays the character to a T, bringing a level of humor to the character that is much needed in such a dark film.

At the same time, Fassbender brings a level of swagger and confidence to the title character throughout the first half of the film. Later, at the turn of a dime, we see him show the character at the end of his rope and barely hanging on to survive. The final scene the viewer sees him is one of extreme emotion, and Fassbender sells the scene perfectly. However, throughout the film it is tough to get a read on the character's motivations. Perhaps this is a flaw in the script (which had a great many flaws), but the viewer never can tell whether Fassbender is an inherently good person sucked into the lifestyle of chaos through the years, or if he is just as evil and corrupt as those around him.

Pitt, Cruz, and Diaz also bring strong performances to their characters, but these are smaller parts that don't see as much screen time (Pitt himself shows up the least, but that's not what the ads would have you believe).

But even strong performances can't save this story. The movie feels bottom-heavy, with the first half crawling by on hands and knees before any kind of tension can be felt at all. Connections between characters and organizations are hazy at times, leaving the viewer wondering how it all fits together. But perhaps most troubling is the amount of menace felt in the second half. This movie goes to some very dark places, and brings the characters down with them. Some scenes even feel gratuitous in how disturbing they get (a scene with "Breaking Bad's" Dean Norris is a perfect example of this.) While this film could fit in with other crime dramas with a dark edge, the casual filmgoer might find some scenes excessive and unnecessary.

"The Counselor," while featuring a star-studded cast and a well-known director, manages to give viewers one of the most disappointingly complex (or impressively deep?) films of the season. Viewers looking for an intense thriller to keep them entertained for two hours should steer clear, but those looking for something more than just another mindless thriller should check it out.

College Bites: A Touch of Garlic

By: Kaylene Hersey

A Touch of Garlic offers many intricate dishes, such as their Shrimp Florentine
Image: Kaylene Hersey

I have to be honest, when I was waiting at the light to turn onto the road that a Touch of Garlic was on, and the smell of garlic was already wafting through the car, I wasn't certain what I was getting myself into. My only regret after leaving the place was not having a breath mint in my purse because when they say a touch of garlic, they really mean that every item on their menu is not complete without at least a cup of garlic in them.

A Touch of Garlic, located off Sumner Avenue, is a small, quaint restaurant. It is the perfect place to bring your significant other. (Hint: to all those WNE boys who want to impress a date because any girl who loves Italian food will love this place). The only major downside to this place is that if customers want to satisfy their stomachs, they will have to empty their wallets just a tad more than the normal places I review. Most entrée meals started in the low 20 dollar range.

The dish I ordered was the Shrimp Florentine, which was large sautéed shrimp, smothering in- what else- garlic, some other seasonings, butter and wine, tossed in angel hair with mozzarella, red peppers, olives and spinach. It was all mixed with a wine sauce and more garlic. I'll admit, I was skeptical at first. I wanted the dish because I love shrimp. However, with that said, I am a huge critic when it comes to seafood. It has to be top-notch. That's what happens when you work at a fish market for two years and I knew, seeing that the shrimp would be cooked with wine, I could easily hate the entire dish if they overused the alcohol. Lucky for me, the chefs at a Touch of Garlic know what they're doing and used the wine with a delicate hand.

The shrimp were cooked to perfection, which is not as easy as it sounds. It does not take much to overcook shrimp. Over-cooked shrimp become extremely dried out and taste rubbery. There is no saving them after that point, not even with sauces and seasoning.

The shrimp were completely cleaned, which I find rare now a days in restaurants, but it was nice to not have to dig the tails off the shrimp while eating. There's nothing less convenient than trying to eat a pasta dish and having to use your hands to a pull the tail out of the dish, or worse, your mouth. The only time the tails should be left on, in my opinion, is when it's shrimp cocktail.

The other dish I tried there was the Chicken Gorgonzola. It was chicken, sautéed in olive oil, and yes, garlic. A gorgonzola cream sauce was mixed with the chicken in penne along with mushrooms, peppers, and broccoli. This is another dish that shows how great these chefs are. Gorgonzola is a pretty strong cheese and making an entire sauce based on its flavor alone could be dangerous, but, just like with the wine sauce, they were very tender with the flavoring and made sure it wasn't too overwhelming. This dish had a very good punch with the garlic and had I eaten that entire dish, I would not have made it home without suffocating those around me.

Overall, I think a Touch of Garlic was a great place. It had a nice environment and it was very cozy. It definitely is not for a rowdy group of college students but it definitely would be a great place for a date or to bring visiting family members. It is on the expensive side, but the food is worth it.

FEATURES

Beer Review: Shipyard Brewing Company's Mint Chocolate Stout

By: Chris Principato

Hello beer enthusiasts; the Westerner is once again stepping out of Massachusetts to explore the east coast and perhaps get a history lesson in New England brewing. As a writer with the sign off phrase, "enjoy the local fare," I usually try keeping my reviews within driving distance of WNE, but such an exception will be made for a man named Alan Pugsley. For those of you who do not know who Mr. Pugsley is, he is known as the father of New England, East Coast, or in some company, US craft brewing.

English born and trained Alan Pugsley, has founded, assisted, and brewed for over 100 breweries and single handedly jumpstarted the craft beer movement in the US. By refusing to sell out to the large "Budweiserish," companies Alan has always brewed for, and supported, the little guys. Mr. Pugsley has settled in Portland, Maine, and currently is the brewmaster for Shipyard Brewing Company.

The stout that didn't seem to match Chris' taste
Image: Chris Principato

Pugsley enjoys experimenting with beer and features many specialty brews which he labels 'Pugsley's Signature Series.' For this last issue of the 2013 Westerner, I have decided to embrace the holiday spirit and jump into the uniqueness which is Shipyard's Pugsley's Signature Series Mint Chocolate Stout.

Note: All students consuming alcohol must be of age. Please drink responsibly and abide by all WNE guidelines and rules regarding alcohol possession, use, and procurement.

2.5/5 Beers

Upon approach of this stout the first thing noticed is the dark black color. Usually one can find subtle browns or reds in a brew, but with this beer, no variation of color can be found. The strong licorice and chocolate nose to this brew is appropriate for its color. When the first sip is taken, the strong licorice nose develops into a potent and overwhelming licorice flavor. This flavor then develops into a delicate mint chocolate flavor and finishes on a dry spearmint note. Food parings for this stout are any smoked meat, chocolate, holiday spirit, or, in my opinion, Reese's. Due to its overwhelming licorice flavor and dry finish, I am going to have to give Shipyard Brewing Company's Pugsley's Signature Series Mint Chocolate Stout 2.5 out of 5 beers. Though Pugsley is a great brewmaster, and an inspiration to local brewers, this is by far not his greatest accomplishment. Please remember, no matter where you are over winter break, to take time to enjoy the local fare.

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

On November 8, 2013, Officers were dispatched to Park Lane Extension for an alcohol assessment. Upon arrival, a male, later identified as a non-WNE student, was located by his vehicle. Based on the assessment conducted, the male, who was under the legal age to procure, possess and consume alcoholic beverages, was deemed to be under the influence of intoxicating liquors. Subsequently, his vehicle was immobilized to prevent operation and the male remained under the supervision of his friend for the evening in Gateway Village. During the assessment, Officers located a second non-affiliated male party who was seen harassing the Student Patrol unit. The male consented to a Portable Breath Test (PBT) which resulted in a blood alcohol content of .16%. Due to this male being under the age of 21 and his level of intoxication he was transported by American Medical Response to Mercy Medical Center for further evaluation.

On November 14, 2013, a Western New England University Facilities Management reported a large circular indentation to the drywall beneath the stairway hand railing in the St. Germain Campus Center. The damage is considered vandalism due to the multiple reports of damage to this area. The incident remains under investigation.

On November 14, 2013, Officers responded to the St. Germain Campus Center dining commons for a reported disturbance. Upon arrival, the disturbance was no longer in progress, and it was reported the male party dispersed from the area. Through investigation, the male party was identified as a Western New England University student. He was later located and questioned regarding the disturbance. The incident was referred to Residence Life.

On November 17, 2013, Western New England University Police Department received a call requesting assistance with a combative male in Gateway Village. Upon arrival, Officers entered a Gateway Village residence where a non-student male was observed being restrained by several other males due to the high level of combativeness. Subsequently, the male was transported by American Medical Response to Baystate Hospital for further medical treatment.

Reminder, please make sure that your E2 campus account is active. Also, make sure that you have checked the box to receive WNE Weather Alerts regarding cancelations and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSFSR.pdf

Features & Opinion

A view into Spiritual Life on campus

By: Spencer Ives

On campus, we have many different organizations. There are groups that center around producing something, such as The Review of Art and Literature, or common interests like billiards, or even mutual concerns like C.A.R.E. (Community Action Rewards Everyone). One group on campus has begun focusing on the spiritual individualities and similarities between students of various faiths. Spiritual Life celebrates the multitude of faiths that can be seen both on- and off-campus.

It was last year that the on-campus organization known as 'Campus Ministry' became Spiritual Life. Sheila Hanifin described how this change was put into place, in part, because there are more faiths in the world and on-campus community than can be represented by a preacher, a priest, and a rabbi. All of the previously featured faiths are still incorporated into Spiritual Life, but with the addition of Buddhism, Islam, and others. Hanifin describes the purpose of the group as educational and for bettering a person's world view, "This is about learning, this is about widening your view of humanity."

The Peace Pagoda is just one of Spiritual Life's Sacred Spaces trips
Image: Courtesy of Spiritual Life

One thing that surprised me to learn about Spiritual Life is the size and scope of the group. The organization has its own student council, the Interfaith Spiritual Life Student Council, advisors, clergy, and various staff members. Spiritual Life has also been going on trips to various areas of focus in spiritual communities. Their most recent trip was to the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, Mass., to learn more about the beliefs and practices about Buddhism. Members of Spiritual life went to the pagoda, toured around the grounds, and then ate a vegetarian lunch with the monks there. The trip seemed to be a positive experience for all who went. Sophomore Michael Masciadrelli remarked on how he greatly appreciated the trip, "It was an eye-opening experience as I learned much about the practice of Buddhism and the everyday life of the monks at the site."

Many, if not all, of the students who are a part of Spiritual Life seem to appreciate the experience. Student Saeed Alhamlan commented, "You get to know that we all have things in common- all faiths share some things."

Masciadrelli also discussed the many facts to the group, and how open they can be, "Spiritual Life consists of several sub-groups on campus including Newman Club for Catholics, Hillel for the Jewish faith, the Muslim Student Association, and also Christian Cornerstone Bible study. There are plenty of ways to be involved if you want to practice your religion on campus and we are a very welcoming group."

Personally, I have seen many people enjoy their own faiths, and feel happy and comfortable in the practice of them. But acceptance can be a difficult thing to come by sometimes. To see such a thriving group, based purely on the purpose of acceptance and experiencing other cultural and spiritual viewpoints is both sublime and beautiful.

Banned books and the search for realism

By: Robert Gilchrist

On November fifth, Apple released a statement regarding the sale of the second issue of the comic book series "Sex Criminals." With a title as such, it's obvious that this is not the kind of story one would read to a child. However, Apple did not give a reason for the banning, simply stating that the book has "content that many audiences would find objectionable..."

While this statement would be accurate in some regards, as some people probably would find a book about people stopping time by having sex objectionable, it is also worth noting that the book does not simply show sex because it can. This book shows sex because it's part of the storyline.

In the first issue of the series, the main character discusses how she came about discovering she had this ability, the ability to stop time by having sex. What follows is a moving piece about growing up, losing one's innocence, and feeling alone during your formative years of high school. This book is a tale that almost everyone can relate to, myself included. Yet, Apple seems to have banned the downloading of digital copies of the book onto their products. With that, this is a free download and only applies to the Comixology app. The book is apparently still available for download through the iBooks app.

This issue has led me to start researching into something that so many before me have talked circles around, that being the idea of questioning what constitutes a book to be banned.

Don't worry, I won't stand on top of a soapbox and preach. However, it is important to note that there is an idea that is seeping into modern pop culture that should be taken into account when considering if certain books should be banned or not. This idea, which is making people determine whether a story is entertaining or not, is realism.

Many people in this day and age sit and consume stories. Whether it is on television, up on a movie screen, or off the pages of a book, the average person consumes stories and tales daily. Many times, what makes a story "good" to people is whether or not the idea is deemed to appear "real" or not. Even in fantasy tales and science fiction epics, people look for some level of realism to help them feel like the story is worth sitting through. If they are not grounded in some level of reality, the audience is annoyed easily and question why a story takes the path that it does.

But it's not just in these sorts of epics that realism can be found. Audiences also expect realistic thought to go into the development of the characters on the page. If character 'A' goes and does something totally against their motivations, the audience outcries that it does not fit with the real aspect of the story. The audience then begins to question if the story has any sense of what real human emotion is. This is exactly what they want to experience as they immerse themselves in a story; emotion.

Should this mentality be taken into account when an organization says that a book should be banned? Audiences expect not just an explanation behind the science of some futuristic tech in a story, but also some level of real human thought and emotion behind a character's motivations. So, when the main characters of "Sex Criminals" decide to start robbing banks using their powers, it makes sense to the story. The reader understands their motivations, and wants to see how the story plays out. Sure, stopping time by making love is way out of bounds of what could be classified as "realism," but the emotion is not. If a storyline can make a person care about what goes on throughout its entirety, then the storyline should be sent out to everyone, no matter what any sort of governing body says about its content otherwise.

Opinion & Puzzles

Qualms & Quarrels: Advice Column

Q: "I'm a freshman and I'm getting really anxious and nervous to take my first set of college final exams. Do you have any good tips on how to prepare at all?" –*Nervous Nail biter*

A: Hey! Don't be nervous! I know it is scary, but really, it's nothing to freak out over. Honestly, college final exams are not far off from many of the high school exams you have probably taken in the past. But, I can understand your anxiety and hopefully some of my tips can help you out.

First of all, compile all of your notes and assignments from the class. Sort them out and try to determine what you know best and what you need work on. Also, if your professor has given you a review sheet of any sort, use that to try to figure out what might be the most challenging parts of the exam for you. With this, do not rule anything out either; always be prepared even if you think something will not show up on an exam.

When studying, my suggestion is to start with what you know the least and go through everything you need to study until you get to what you know the best. Repeat this process a few times. This way you will always be going back to what you don't know and making it a prominent topic, thus you get to learn it better. At the end of the day you will also be reviewing what you are already confident in, which will only help you retain that knowledge better.

Additionally, use your resources! If you are taking a math exam that you are nervous for, visit the Math Center during tutoring hours to get some extra help and practice the topics you are a bit fuzzy on. If you are worried about an essay portion of an English exam, visit the Writing Center to brush up on your writing skills. It's also a good idea to talk to your professors after class and set up a meeting time with them during their office hours so that you can review with them. Professors are always more than willing to help you out if you are struggling or just want to ensure you know what to study before you go down the wrong path. You can also speak to your classmates and maybe get a study group together to talk about areas of the topic you have trouble with and also help each other out.

Above all, you have to remember to keep calm about exams. Freaking out never helps anyone. Just study, get a good night's sleep, eat a good breakfast the morning of the exam, and *breathe*. You will do absolutely fine if you prepare yourself properly and stay confident in your abilities to do well.

Good luck writer! And good luck to everyone as we head into Finals Crunch-Time! Just remember to Keep Calm and Carry On!

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

9	2			8		1		
8			7					4
		7			3		9	
		8		5			1	
	6		3			9	4	
2					1			8
1					2	7		
	9			4	6		5	
		5	1					2

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are every other **Thursday @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 105**

Do you have any artwork, photography, or literary pieces of any sort that you'd like to share? Then we have just the place to do it! The Review of Art and Literature is accepting submissions now through December 6, 2013! Just email wnereview@gmail.com or bring your piece to The Review Office, Rivers 131. Please include your name, major (or faculty position), year, and the title and medium of your piece. Anyone can submit, so if you have something awesome when it comes to art or literature, submit today!

Sports & Puzzles

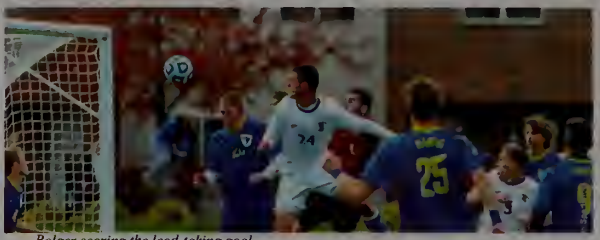
Men's soccer wins conference championship

By: Michael Masciadrelli

On Nov. 9, the Golden Bears hosted Roger Williams University in the final of the Commonwealth Coast tournament. They hoped to sink their teeth into the championship trophy in front of their home crowd.

The Golden Bears played with a sense of urgency on the sunny Saturday afternoon. A freshman set the tone early for the Golden Bears. On the 13th minute, Western New England set up for a corner kick. As the ball flew in, freshman defender Brandon Bolger jumped up, made contact with the ball with the right side of his head, knocking the ball past the goalkeeper into the net. Bolger scored his first career goal for the Golden Bears and it couldn't have come at a better time. The Golden Bears took a 1-0 lead into halftime.

Early in the second half, the Golden Bears set up a free kick, just inside midfield. Defender, John Axton booted the ball with his left hook, curving the ball in toward the box. With a little luck off a deflection,



Bolger scoring the leod-taking goal
Imoge: Courtesy of the Golden Bears

Chad Barrett put the ball into the back of the net, resulting in the Golden Bears going up 2-0. A solid defensive performance led by senior goalie, Domenick Villano, also contributed in the shut out of Roger Williams. After the victory, Villano spoke in an interview with Patrick O'Rourke.

"It was definitely hard fought, a 32 man effort," said Villano. "It was an experience I'll never forget. It's an exciting ride; it's a good November. We've kept getting better and better and nothing has slowed us down. From everything we've done - every practice, every minute we've been on the field."

With the win, it gave the Golden Bears their fifth conference championship in school history. The conference title gives them an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament. They are looking for more as they move on to play tougher competition in the next tournament. Coach Sullivan also spoke in an interview after the game with O'Rourke.

"It's what we play for; you begin with the ends in mind," said Coach Sullivan. "When it comes to the postseason, every match and every season can decide a career. Anything can happen."

Three Golden Bears were recognized by the Commonwealth Coast Conference for their efforts during the playoffs. Each of them earned player of the week honors for the week of November 11th. Goalkeeper Dominick Villano was awarded the Defensive Player of the Week, freshman back Brandon Bolger earned Rookie of the Week, and senior forward Jake Bartnik took home the Offensive Player of the Week award.

The Golden Bears won their first round match 2-0 against MIT at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts in the NCAA Men's Soccer Division III Championship. Senior Jake Barnik sealed the victory as he scored in the eighty-seventh minute to put Western New England up by two goals. In their next contest, they weren't as lucky. Their second round opponent was Williams, the host school. Brandon Bolger scored his second career goal in the 8th minute off another corner kick. It was looking good for the Bears for a while. Momentum changed in the second half as Williams scored their first goal to tie it in the sixty-fourth minute. Four minutes later they went ahead 2-1. They never looked back and took the victory, 4-1.

It was a season filled of many accomplishments and these Golden Bears have much to be proud of. They finished the year with a combined 16-5-3 record and nationally ranked twenty-fourth in the final regular-season Division III rankings in the National Soccer Coaches' Association of America poll. including their two games in the NCAA heading into the NCAA Men's Soccer Division III Championship. It was their eighth appearance in the tournament since 2004.

Get ready for the most magical night at WNE! The Review of Art and Literature is hosting "Based on a Disney Story" Saturday, November 23, 2013 in Rivers Arena. There will be tons of activities and it will be a wonderful night for everyone! You can get together with your roommates and friends to reenact some of your favorite Disney movie scenes! Then, belt out your favorite Disney music during our sing-a-long! You can dress come in costume, as a favorite prince, princess, or any character, to participate in the costume contest and challenge yourself with some Disney Trivia for a chance at Disney themed prizes! Or you can just sit back and relax with some Disney coloring pages! No matter what your choose, The Review promises everyone the happiest event at WNE, so join the club for an unforgettable night of Disney activities, prizes, and more!

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

9	2	6	4	8	5	1	7	3
8	5	3	7	1	9	6	2	4
4	1	7	2	6	3	8	9	5
3	7	8	9	5	4	2	1	6
5	6	1	3	2	8	9	4	7
2	4	9	6	7	1	5	3	8
1	8	4	5	3	2	7	6	9
7	9	2	8	4	6	3	5	1
6	3	5	1	9	7	4	8	2

WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE IT, THANK YOU!

The Official Student Newspaper of Western New England University

The Westerner

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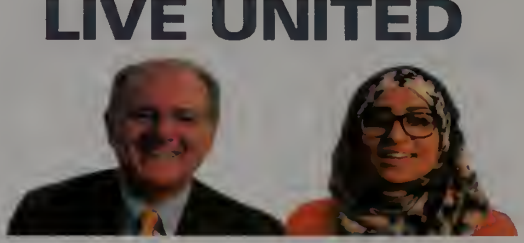
Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Live United Campaign is underway

By: Morgan Harthorne



President Caprio supporting Live United Campaign
Image: Brian Zelasko

Beginning January 30, our campus will pledge to LIVE UNITED with the local United Way organization to raise funds for the surrounding Springfield community.

The United Way is a nonprofit organization that is comprised of community leaders that help raise funds and awareness about the specific needs of their local communities. The organization recently shifted its focus and priority to education due to a recent study that indicated poverty and many social ills are the result of a lack of education.

In a recent email to the faculty, staff and students of the University, President Caprio said, "Our goal is to increase campus participation, which has fallen in recent years. Please join me and participate this year. The United Way Slogan is LIVE UNITED and that is what we can do with your participation."

Brian Zelasko, Director of Media and Communication Relations here at the University said, "What's different about this year's campaign is that we're choosing to focus on joining together as a community to give back as opposed to focusing on and showing the negative aspects of the Springfield community. This way, we can have some fun while raising some funds."

Students and faculty

Continued on page 2

Film Society awaits approval

By: Audrey McKeown

Film Society is in the process of becoming a club
Image: Kelly Klingensmith

Almost a year ago, a group of students came together in the hopes of starting a club. This group dubbed themselves the Film Society of Western New England University and began work on their constitution in the spring of 2013. It has not been a quick endeavor for the current members. Once the constitution was written, it needed to be submitted and approved by Student Senate. The elected president of the Film Society, Kevin Babcock, brought the constitution to Student Senate for approval in October 2013.

Although the club has not yet been approved as an official club, the members are hoping it will happen soon so they can start advertising and promoting the Film Society.

Sarah Wiles, a member of Student Senate, said that "the time for a club to be approved by Student Senate depends on how many changes must be made to their constitution and once the club is approved by the Student Affairs Committee, it comes to the Student Senate Legislative Committee, where the constitution is presented for approval."

Along with this, the committee must ensure that all required clauses are included with the constitution, Student Senate votes to activate the club officially, and thereafter they are able to receive funding.

Wiles added, "In order to be approved by Student Senate and Student Affairs Committee, the club has to serve some sort of a purpose to the student body, whether that be a special interest, a field of study, or a particular activity."

The process could take awhile but any determined, appropriate group has the opportunity to become an official club at Western New England.

While there are film screenings on campus provided by CAB Film, the Film Society has a unique function and drive. Instead of presenting movies in a public setting, the Film Society is a more personal and intense film for the film lovers on campus.

According to Babcock, "The goal of the Film Society is to provide a setting outside of the classroom where students will be able to discuss films, aiming for an in-depth, thought provoking analysis of film."

Babcock said the club will function in the same manner that a book club does, only with a focus on motion pictures and will provide any Western New England student who has a deep passion and appreciation for cinema to share their thoughts and ideas with others. The ideal for the Film Society is to take an educational approach to studying critically acclaimed films throughout a wide array of time periods and genres.

Many students choose to spend their free time partaking in campus clubs and activities. When asked why

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News & Entertainment

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Live United continued from first page

alike have joined together to bring this campaign to life. A slew of quirky, informative, two-minute videos will debut on students' Connect2U homepages from the start of the campaign until February 14, the end of the campaign. Each video shows students, professors, and even President Caprio as they talk about the United Way – the first United Way movement, the globalization of the organization, where all of the funds go and more.

"It's a great project to help the community. It is so important to improve the community you live in. Whether [you are] working on campus or living on campus, you are part of the community that surrounds Western New England, and it is crucial to give back," junior Accounting-Finance major, PJ Nassar, said of the campaign. Nassar participated in a video with Dean Pelosi.

Zelasko agreed with Nassar, "As an important university in Springfield, we have a responsibility to give back and do our part. If we're not helping out the organization, we're not doing our job," he said.

In President Caprio's video entitled "Connect the Dots," he said, "Western New England University has demonstrated its leadership in Western Massachusetts for many years and the United Way Campaign is another opportunity to participate in an important community wide effort to help address local problems."

Zelasko added to this point, "The United Way really does a lot of great things for our community. We have got to give back."

LIVING UNITED is easy as pie. Students will be able to purchase a heart that says, "I promise to LIVE UNITED and support my community." for one dollar in the campus center from February 3 until February 14.

A LIVE UNITED Kick-off event will be held on January 30 in Rivers Memorial from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. It will be an "enrichment day" for students, faculty and staff where different departments on campus, including Health Services, OIT, and Athletics will provide their services. Local organizations such as Hot Table, Sophia's, and Stop & Shop will be present handing out coupons and menus. Everyone who attends will be entered into a raffle with a chance to win tons of prizes.

Film Society continued from first page

she believes clubs are a vital part of college life, Junior Christina Raus commented that "Clubs are a great opportunity for students to get involved in the community as well as an opportunity to learn about and make contributions to campus life outside of the classroom."

There are a wide variety of clubs on campus, with a vast range of interest areas that meet the needs and demands of students. New clubs add to the already existing opportunities. Kevin Babcock extends an invitation to become a member of the currently establishing Film Society to students of Western New England. For more information, email him at Kevin.Babcock@wne.edu.

Second Register for The Pod

The Pod in the next coming weeks will be installing a second register, Aramark Food Services have been working with the Office of Information Technology department as well as Facilities, to collaborate this beneficial project that has been highly requested by the student body.

Roger J. Roberge, Aramark Food Service Director here at Western New England University, says that the goal of the new cash register is to "make the students happy and to meet their needs here on campus." The addition of a second register at the university's convenient store will also improve crowd control.

Book Review: Falling Kingdoms

By: Elizabeth Thompson

Falling Kingdoms is the first book in Morgan Rhodes's new series, *Falling Kingdoms.* It follows the four stories of Cleo, Jonas, Lucia, and Magnus - all very different characters. Cleo is a princess who suffers from a haunting secret and the desire to help at all costs. Jonas seeks revenge on the man who murdered his brother. Lucia is forced into a role she does not want any part of. Magnus also has his own forbidden secret and he fears that he is becoming more like his father every day.

Despite having four main characters, Rhodes manages to make them their own individual, each having strong attributes. Each character follows their own path and grows in their own way. Rhodes manages to keep their individuality intact. For Cleo and Jonas, they both watched as Jonas's brother died and share two entirely different views as to what happened. Magnus knows a secret about his sister, Lucia, that could change the game to his favor, but he's not sure if she is willing to follow suit.

The prologue pulls you into the plot before the story begins with vague details. The prologue is short, leaving the reader wondering what is going on and why. The fact that I kept asking myself those questions kept me reading. I wanted to know the answers; I needed to know the answers. The vagueness of the prologue has just enough detail so I would not lose interest. The prologue is sixteen years before the story begins and mentions nothing of the main characters. It is a huge event that the two characters make a big deal of that goes unanswered for most of the book.

My only problem with the book, however, is that in order for the author to get each character's story across, they are each given their own chapter. The problem with this is that the chapters are labeled with the location that it is taking place in and not which character the chapter is for. Luckily the book is written in third person so it does not take long to figure out which character it is. Not only that, but if two characters share the same chapter, the third person style can sometimes muddle who it is really about.

Rhodes does stray from the four main characters' stories occasionally with a chapter from a major side character who you know is there, but have not seen much of. This redeems the chapter writing style because you get to see more behind the scenes. The characters she chooses for these are typically ones you only see a little of but effect the major characters in one way or the other, such as Magnus's father and what he is really up to or the mysterious Watchers thought to me a child's bed time tale.

Overall I really enjoyed *Falling Kingdoms.* It held romance, action, danger, and mystery. It left me wanting more and waiting for the release of the sequel. I cannot wait to see where Rhodes takes her story.

Entertainment

Tv Review: Sherlock

By: Robert Gilchrist

Two years. That's a long time to wait in between television seasons, especially ones that have a limited number of episodes. But that's the burden fans of the hit British series "Sherlock" have had to live with. With the return having huge expectations to uphold, it's reasonable to assume the premier would falter under such weight. While not at the same level as some of the other episodes, "The Empty Hearse" still manages to entertain and excite.

Going into the episode, fans had just seen Sherlock leap to his death in order to save his friends from the clutches of his arch-nemesis Jim Moriarty. But a last minute reveal showed that he had, in fact, survived and gone into hiding to protect the ones he cared about. With this lead in, "The Empty Hearse" picks up two years later and finds Sherlock returning to London to help his brother Mycroft stop an imminent terrorist attack and reconnect with those he had left behind.

Without a doubt, the highlight of this episode is the interplay between Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman, who portray Sherlock and Watson, respectively, to near perfection. The witty banter and snide asides between the two are as humorous and heartfelt as ever. It's almost as if no time has passed between the two actors, who have jumped back into these roles with seemingly little effort. Cumberbatch is just as brilliant and aloof as ever, and Freeman brings a deep level of admiration and frustration to Watson that is perhaps his best run as the character yet. The show wouldn't be what it is without these two.

That being said, the premier decides to focus heavily on Sherlock's relationships to others more than it does to the case at hand. At times, the mystery becomes nothing more than jumbled pieces and snapshots of adventure that seem to make little sense to the overall arc of the story. By the end, the resolution feels rushed and brushed aside for more important things. But couldn't it be argued that, at least in Sherlock's world, there is nothing more important than the mystery?

But that's only a secondary mystery to the viewers, who are tuning in to find out the answer to the biggest mystery of all; how did he survive the fall? After two years of speculations, fans have run wild with one preposterous theory after another, each more elaborate than the last. The writers manage to have fun with this very idea in the episode, poking fun at all of the theorists and fans who believe the famous detective is still alive.

But when it boils down to it, the execution of the reveal is jarring and, to an extent, unsatisfying. At the height of the action of the main narrative, the writers decide to cut to the reveal, not explaining how Holmes and Watson escaped the trap they had found themselves in. Even more surprising was the way the writers chose to reveal the big mystery, ending the scene with a bit of ambiguity that can leave the viewers questioning if what we got was the real deal, or just another Sherlock-ian misdirect.

Ultimately, the crime is solved and the bad guy nahbed…or is he? The writers are already hinting at the next major villain for the series, who seems to be another master manipulator moving things behind the scenes. If that sounds just a bit familiar, it's because we went through two seasons of this before. It will be interesting to see if this character differs much from the great Moriarty, but it might have been interesting to try something else for a change of pace.

While "The Empty Hearse" didn't manage to live up to every expectation that fans held for the show, it still managed to deliver a fun and adventurous romp that reminded us why we missed these characters so much. Here's hoping the next two episodes continue to get better, and that we won't have to wait so long for season four.

Interested in Writing For the Paper

Join us February 13th at 8 pm for our ice cream social in Rivers 126 & see what being a journalist and editor is all about!!!

Movie Review: The Wolf of Wall Street

By: Robert Gilchrist

The Wolf of Wallstreet promotional poster
Image: Moviereviewworld.com

As the yearly awards season for films quickly approaches, many critics in the entertainment industry have already begun proclaiming which films will win the major awards. Films like "American Hustle," "12 Years a Slave," and "Captain Philips" are all seen as key films to watch when it comes to the marquee categories. However, "The Wolf of Wall Street" is a film that many discount, despite being one of the freshest films of the year.

"Wolf," based on the memoirs of Wall Street mogul Jordan Belfort, tells Belfort's story from when he first appeared on the stock scene to his eventual rise and fall as one of the nation's premier investment brokers. Directed by Martin Scorsese, the film is crammed full of overindulgence in the extreme, from the mansions these brokers live in to the parties they host. Drugs, nudity, and copious amounts of cash are seen in practically every scene, making the film a tale of excess in the extreme.

However, the real showstopper for the film is the star, Leonardo DiCaprio. As Belfort, DiCaprio exudes both charm and smugness to woo the viewer into his web of deceptions. As the film progresses, we find ourselves rooting for this man, even though he is a slime bucket in the extreme. Not only does he use charm on his side, but the moments of comedy that shine through (of which there are many) help to add sheen to an already phenomenal performance. A scene involving powerful drugs and a flight of stairs is perhaps one of the funniest committed to film this year, and that's saying something.

The film also manages to capture the heart of the book's themes and tales without going into too much detail regarding the many intricacies of Wall Street. The first book, which runs a hefty five hundred plus pages, spends much too much time trying to educate the reader on how all of these acts were pulled off without the IRS finding out. The casual reader doesn't want to read a five hundred page stretch of book filled with broker jargon; they want to be told of the insanity these people got into, and how they were brought down. The film manages to boil these scenes down so that the viewer understands how things are getting done, without being lectured about it.

But this brings us to the main flaw of the film; the runtime. At just under three hours long, it's an epic of a movie. Like most of Scorsese's films, there are several scenes in the film that could either be completely cut out or significantly shortened. The scene mentioned earlier in this article (regarding drugs and stairs) is funny to begin, but eventually it begins to wear on the viewer.

'All right, we get it… he's out of his mind on drugs. Can we move on now?'

While not something that really brings the overall film down significantly, it does ultimately hurt the end product. Had the final runtime been two and a half hours, it might have been a phenomenal film. Instead, it's only a great one.

While the film does have a few flaws, it still stands as one of the premier films of the year and worthy of every award it is nominated for. "The Wolf of Wall Street" is not one to be missed. It might even convince you to go make your fortune playing the stocks.

FEATURES

A change in perspective on MLK weekend

By: Kaylene Hersey

I'll be honest; I wasn't looking forward to spending most of my three day weekend doing community service. I was asked to do it by a friend who wanted company while he completed his LBC and I didn't want him to be all alone. I expected the MLK event to be long days, tedious work, and way too early mornings. The last thing I expected was to have fun.

This wasn't my first experience with community service. I did a lot of it in high school; I worked at Red Cross Blood drives, soup kitchens, and even cleaning at my local dance studio. Most of my experience with community service seemed more like chores. It was something I had to do to graduate. I was never doing it out of the goodness of my heart, as bad as that sounds. This time though; it was different.

We started the day learning about Martin Luther King Jr. by watching a movie and then having a discussion. We then drove to the Western Mass Food Bank where we got a tour of the food bank. There was so much food; piles of canned chicken and tuna and many jars of peanut butter. It was packed all into a warehouse and from first sight, I thought there was enough food there to get me through a few years and yet, it wasn't enough food to feed all the people that needed it. This was such an eye opener to me. I could not believe when the sponsor told us that 1 in every 8 people in Western Mass was food insecure. All I could think was that there were twelve people in our group, which meant at least one of them would need this service. That seemed like a big deal.

The other issue that was so overwhelming was that the food bank is always undermanned. They have more food coming in without the ability to always sort and ship it out. This causes issues with any fresh food that comes in because by the time it is sorted and shipped to pantries in Western Massachusetts, it has potentially gone bad.

Our job at the Food Bank was sorting food into categories: canned fruit and vegetables, ready-to-eat meals, snacks, and condiments. After sorting them into these categories, we boxed up a variety from the categories. For example, in the snacks section, we boxed up apple sauce, cookies, crackers, chocolate, etc, so that when the box was shipped off, the pantry receiving it would have a nice variety of snacks. We were split up into sections; four of us boxing up food, while the rest of us sorted. I was in the boxed section with the canned fruits and vegetables and the snacks. Our challenge was to get as many boxes filled as possible. Once I saw the stacks of boxes we had filled in just an hour and a half, I knew we had made a difference. And it was a good feeling, a really good feeling. I didn't expect it at all.

The following day we went to the Children's Study Home, here in Springfield to paint the building. My goal was to paint the bathroom. It was already taped up for the most part but we had about four hours to prime the walls, let them dry and then paint them. At first, it seemed like we were doomed. There were just two of us working on the bathroom and though it was small, this only worked as a disadvantage because the bathroom was very narrow, and it didn't leave us much room to move around the place. The prime took about an hour and a half or so. At this point, it didn't look like we were going to finish. We had to let it dry for an hour and a half, which left us an hour to put the paint coat on the walls.

However, we cracked down. Just like we had the drive to finish as many boxes the day before, we had the drive to finish the room. My partner and I were not going to leave the Children's Study Home until our job was complete and we did exactly that. The walls were done within an hour.

I have had many jobs in the past and have done many hours in community service, but never have I done something where it was just to help people, where I was just doing it for myself. After I was done, I felt like such a better person. I felt that that weekend I helped at least one person. We all did something that would make someone happy and that to me was better than sleeping in and slugging around on a three day weekend.

College Bites: Priya Indian Cuisine

By: Kaylene Hersey

I wasn't expecting Indian food. It was a last minute change of plans and when my stomach was expecting All-American food, Priya Indian Cuisine was the last thing my stomach expected.

We were planning to go to this diner, but when we got there, it was closed. We had to think fast and someone suggested the place Priya Indian Cuisine, located at 460 Memorial drive in Chicopee. I was first uncertain about the choice. My only experience with Indian food was at this run-down buffet and I hated almost everything I had tasted. There were spices I had never tried and everything had some form of yogurt, which never sat well with me personally. Now, I understand there are many people who find Indian food very tasty, but I wouldn't be able to properly critique a place if I didn't like the style of cuisine altogether. I wouldn't be able to tell you whether it was this restaurant's specific food or just the style of food that I had a distaste for, so I was

Eral Varuval and Shrimp Kabab Masala
Image: Kaylene Hersey

definitely on edge when we arrived at Priya. There was a chance that I would not be able to actually review it.

But fear not, when I took my first bite, all worries disappeared. There were four different dishes that I tried. The first one was Lamh Rogan Josh. I chose this one first because I wasn't positive how I'd feel about the lamb, so I figured I'd get it out of the way. The lamb was very tender. Excuse the cliché, but I thought it tasted just like chicken. It was smothered in a curry sauce made from tomato, ginger and onion. It had a slight kick, but it definitely wasn't the spiciest thing on my plate.

The next dish was one of my favorites, which was Eral Varuval. Anybody who knows me knows that the way to my heart is a good plate of seafood and this dish went beyond expectations. There is something about coconut and shrimp being paired together that just makes a perfect match. It pairs the sweet with the savory and then adding the curry sauce in the dish gave it the extra kick of spice it needed. Also, just looking at the dish, it was easy to tell how just small components really make a dish. Most people don't know there is a difference between cooking shrimp with the tails on, compared to with them off. Most people find the tails just to be a messy hassle when eating but what they don't realize is cooking with the tails allows a lot of the juices to build up in the shrimp. It actually makes it taste better.

The other seafood dish was also with shrimp. It was Shrimp Kabob Masala. These shrimp were grilled with Tandoor sauce, which is spicy sauce made with many spices such as cayenne pepper, cumin, fennel, ginger, chili pepper, and a few more. This gave the shrimp a nice good kick of heat. Grilling shrimp always gives a great texture to the shrimp. It makes it charred-like on the outside, but it stays juicy in the middle. As long as it is done right, it is one of the best ways to eat shrimp. The shrimp was in a creamy tomato sauce. My only dislike for this dish was the fact that there was too much sauce and not enough shrimp. But I don't think it matters how much shrimp I get, I will probably always have this dilemma.

The last dish I had was Chicken Chennai. It was chicken breast cooked in curry and red chili and then served in a coconut sauce. Just like the Eral Varuval, this dish had the great pairing of savory with sweet, along with some spice. The chicken was tender and juicy and the sauce had a nice blend of spices.

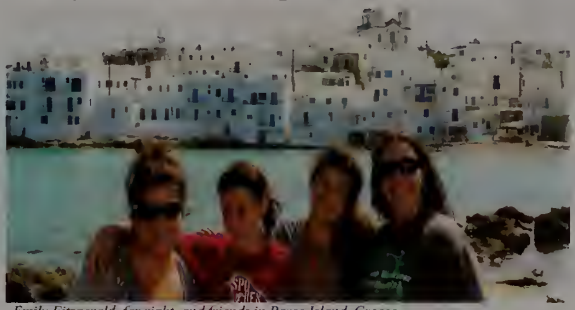
I think overall my second experience with Indian Food was a much better success than my first, but more than that, I feel like I now have a better appreciation for Indian Cuisine and may even try making my own one day.

Features

Study Abroad: the experience of a lifetime

By: Gennah Borg

When it comes to college, we all have a preconceived idea of what it will be like. Whether you're passionate about studying, sports, parties, making friends, or getting involved with extracurricular activities on campus, everyone's college experience is different from one another's. If everyone's college experience is approached differently, why can't your study abroad experience, an experience of a lifetime, be just as unique?



Emily Fitzgerald, far right, and friends in Paros Island, Greece
Image: Emily Fitzgerald

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel from city to city, waking up in a different state each morning, just as some of your favorite musicians do while on tour? Just think about the fun you could have traveling the world, seeing a different country each weekend, and being spontaneous in your travels if you took up the opportunity to study abroad!

Studying abroad is a unique experience in which college and university students have the opportunity to travel the world while taking college credit courses that are put towards their degree. If you ask anyone who has studied abroad, he or she will most likely tell you that it is a life changing experience and one of the most rewarding and memorable things he or she has ever done.

Not yet convinced to study abroad? If making new friends, learning a new language, widening your horizon, gaining life experiences and having the ability to step outside of your comfort zone has not caught your attention, then take a look at what some of your Western New England University peers, and my close friends, had to say about their study abroad experiences.

Emily Fitzgerald, a senior here at Western New England University, had this to say about her study abroad experience on Paros Island in Greece, "The fall semester of my junior year I studied abroad and it was one of the most enriching experiences of my life. I believe that every student should study abroad, if possible, because they will discover so much about themselves, and the world around them. The three months I spent abroad on Paros Island changed my life. I came back a better person. I had a new understanding of the world. I had tbe opportunity to see beyond the protective and caring bubble that exists here at Western New England University, and have gained a new appreciation for different life styles and cultures. When studying abroad, the sky is the limit and you should push yourself out of your comfort zone."

Sophomore, Amanda Poris studied abroad in London, England this past fall and is truly thankful she had such an incredible opportunity. "It was fun studying abroad because I was able to visit many countries such as Italy, Ireland and Scotland, in addition to London, which is where I studied. I was able to experience different cultures while taking courses that pertained to my major here at Western New England University. I made friends that will last me a lifetime. [Studying abroad] is a great opportunity because you can both study and travel, while learning about the world we are part of."

Studying abroad, although I have personally not had such an experience myself, I plan to do so before graduating. Let's be honest...When are the majority of us college students ever going to be worry free and stress free again in our life times? More than likely, never! It is so important to embrace all that college life has to offer and if studying abroad means participating in something completely outside of your comfort zone, I say take the chance and have some fun!

Sophomore, Bobby Caruso, will be a junior in the fall and he plans to study abroad in Paris, France during his senior year. Having always been fascinated with the French culture, Caruso plans to spend his time fully exposed to all his abroad experience has to offer him. To leave you with one more thought, Bobby Caruso adds, "Studying abroad can change the way you see the world, the way you see your world, and has potential to shape your future."

Crime Prevention

By: Sgt. Stacy Gamache

The dangers of drinking alcohol in cold weather

Alcohol can dilate the blood vessels near the surface of a person's body. That contributes to a person's losing crucial body warmth and to a lowered body temperature. In addition, it can suppress normal defenses against hypothermia such as shivering, which generates heat, and the shifting of blood flow to the brain and other vital organs.

Drinking in the winter is particularly dangerous because if someone passes out [outside] the consequences can be dire. Extreme hypothermia may cause loss of limbs.

The dangers of drinking in cold weather aren't limited to hypothermia. Students might not realize that they are getting frostbite. Bundle up!

Be vigilant! Call Public Safety if you think someone looks drunk and is walking around campus.

Dress for cold weather! Invest in a good "party coat". A cheap coat will be fine. This coat will be your go-to for parties, so you don't have to risk ruining or losing a pricey North Face coat. It doesn't have to be cute, it just has to be warm enough to get you from point A (your dorm) to point B (party/bar).

Always have a sober driver and make sure your friends make it inside a warm area before leaving them for the night.

Fire Safety Column

By: Ofc. Monica Viegas

Use extension cords and electrical appliances properly: Do not overload extension cords, power strips or outlets. Do not connect multiple extension cords together. Do not route cords under doors or carpets. Never staple wires or extension cords. Know the watts being put out by the item and what the intake is on the extension cord. This will prevent the cord from overheating, melting, and causing a fire. Use proper outlets for high wattage appliances, such as televisions, stereos, mini refrigerators, toaster over, microwaves, etc. Look for the UL Mark on any electrical product. Use light bulbs with correct wattage for lamps.

Protect yourself and your roommates before property and valuables: Property and valuable can be replaced, lives cannot. Personal safety is the most important factor when deciding whether to fight a small fire. Before you begin fighting a fire, be sure that everyone has left the building, the University Police has been called, and the fire is contained to a small area, such as in a wastebasket, and it is not spreading. Also make sure your back is to an unobstructed exit to which the fire will not spread.

Interested in sports?
Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears?
Have a knack for journalism or writing in general?
The Westerner would love to have you!
We are looking for any students who have an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write one WNE sports related article per issue.
If you are interested, join us at one of our meetings held every other Thursday at 8:00p.m. in Rivers 105.

Opinion

The new generation of dating

By: Stefani Feole

"20 year old female seeking older male for companionship, nothing too serious." That is *exactly* what my online dating profile would lead with! Okay, maybe not, but I think it is safe to say that if you have not at least created an online dating profile with either DateMySchool, Hot or Not, J-Date, Christian Mingle, eHarmony, Tinder, or even Farmers Only, you've at least pondered the idea of it! If not, I highly encourage you do.

Recently, it has become more and more socially acceptable that young adults create online profiles in hopes of finding a romantic partner. Believe it or not, out of the 54,250,000 singles in the United States alone, 76% of them have tried some form of online dating. I know what you're thinking…This riveting form of dating is completely taboo and even a little tacky, but what you didn't know is that this form of dating is much more common than anyone would believe it to be! Go ahead and ask any of your friends if they have ever created an online dating profile. Three out of four of them will undoubtedly say yes.

Something tells me you have now created your own online dating profile because my argument for online dating is incredibly convincing. So now what? Get out there, tiger! Half of the work is already done for you, simply by creating the profile, especially if you are a female. Ladies, sit back and enjoy the attention that many of these single fellas are more than willing to provide you with. And men, start using those sad pick-up lines that normally wouldn't work for you at Paddy's. Something many people should understand is that rejection can be quite the buzz kill, however, online it is hardly an issue. If someone does not respond to your obnoxiously absurd pick-up lines, I'm sure the next person will! Keep an open mind, don't create any silly or unrealistic expectations and just know that you aren't alone in the world of online dating, or dating at all for that matter.

You're about to go on your first actual online dating date, what in the world should you expect? Nothing! Like I said, have no expectations! Nonetheless, that does not mean you shouldn't take certain precautions to protect yourself from online predators. Stalkers who provide unwanted attention do exist, they operate at all hours, all of the time. Beware and use your good judgment when it comes to posting pictures and personal information. Seriously though, it's best that you do take certain precautions before any type of in-person/ one-on-one contact.

1) Seriously get to know the person you are interacting with before meeting them in person…I know that you all have seen or at least heard of Catfish.

2) Pictures! Always be cautious of what you are posting and sending out.

3) Consider taking a friend along when meeting said person you are planning to meet up with.

4) It is important that you meet in a public area for obvious reasons, when you do decide it is the right time to meet in person.

5) Tell a friend where you are going and when you will be meeting said person you are in touch with.

There is no shame in anyone's dating game preference. Be safe, have fun, and keep an open mind! Life is about creating opportunities for yourself so take advantage of these opportunities, because life is too short not to.

If you're feeling lost

By: Sarah Wiles

If ever you feel like you need something to relate to, somewhere to turn, or even someone to talk to, there is almost always a song for you. Music is the one irreplaceable and reliable outlet on which to depend to hold life's answers. Sometimes, it takes a significant amount of searching to find the perfect song to suit your fancy, but it is out there.

There are carefree and happy songs to suit any upbeat gathering. There are sappy and romantic ballads for all newfound lovers. There are solemn laments for broken hearts and there are satirical pieces for the world's cynics. No matter what kind of mood you are in, or what you are going through, there is something for everyone in the world of music.

When you feel like lyrics are too shallow or simple, delve into instrumental works and create your own interpretation! Many of our finest classical pieces, completely devoid of words, hold meaning more intricate than anything we could imagine today.

Music has held a profound place in my heart since I was very young. I began singing passionately in choirs in elementary school and shortly thereafter, I started playing the piano and violin. When the time came to choose which musical avenue to pursue, I decided to continue singing through middle and high school. I was fortunate enough to have time in my schedule during my senior year of high school to pick the violin back up and join the orchestra again. Coming from a locally renowned music program, my love for music prospered throughout my adolescence, and I continue to sing in our university's Campus Chorus.

Music is not only something to which I can relate by listening to, but also a means of expression for me. Each new piece I hear, and each new piece we sing, brings different memories and possibilities into my life. Whenever I feel myself needing a break, or time to relax, I find that perfect song.

The influence of music is not something to underestimate. It drives people to tears for joy or sadness, it soothes an injured spirit and even delivers messages too complex or beautiful for spoken words. One of the many beauties about music is that it is different for each listener. What holds the deepest and truest of meanings to one listener might hold a completely different value to another, and both are correct. In this way, music is not exclusive or discriminatory. It never ceases to amaze me how truly powerful songs are to the soul.

Campus Chorus Presents:

Bridging Communites Through Song

On February 15, Join Campus Chorus, along with the Children's Chorus of Greater Springfield and the Young Singers of Greater Westfield for a wonderful musical performance directed by Nick Page. The concert starts at 3 pm in Rivers Arena. Come support our community & WNE's Music Department!!!

Opinion

Qualms & Quarrels: Advice Column

Q: There are a lot of things I'm interested in doing on campus [clubs, events, etc.] but I just don't know how to go about doing it all. I'm way too shy and awkward; how do I put myself out there and get people to like me? *–Too Shy to Function*

A: Shy, you're worrying too much. Take it from someone who knows what it's like to be shy and awkward, but who still wants to participate in many activities. You just have to be willing to put inhibitions aside and go for the things you want to do if they make you happy!

If you want to join a club, find out when their meetings are and simply show up! There are no clubs on campus that would turn away someone who is really interested and willing to participate. Try out a bunch of different clubs, times permitting, and choose which ones you think fit you best. Then, stick with it! There is nothing wrong with just trying to find what you like and going for it. That's also a great way to meet new people, and find out about other activities and events going on around campus.

Interested in events? Nothing is stopping you from attending! Whatever event it may be, that is what the club or organization wants to be doing for students on campus, for people who genuinely want to be there, just like you do. Believe me, there are so many fun and interesting events almost every weekend here on our Western New England University campus, and they're all equally worth going to check out. At most campus events, you get free giveaways, which are undoubtedly awesome!

Have you thought about participating in any events? I recommend that you find out if any clubs are taking volunteers; for instance, RHA's Dream Date Event, which is taking place on February 15th, is willing to take aboard anyone and everyone willing to sign up to get auctioned off, just for fun! Either way, if you just start attending campus events and activities, you'll see that meeting people, making new friends, and having fun is a lot easier than you think it is!

I hope my advice has helped you out, and I hope that you become more willing to put yourself out there. College is a time for change, growth, and having a good time to keep yourself from going nuts! Do not be afraid or think that you're "too awkward" to do be part of our welcoming and diverse campus. I am more than positive that there are clubs and events waiting for your presence. So get out there and have a great time, and always remember to just be yourself!

Follow these three basic green tips:

Reduce:

This can be as simple as trying to reduce the amount of electricity you use, and avoid wasting water. You could also watch what you buy, and purchase goods with less plastic (hint: avoid individually wrapped items). Just try to stop wasting whenever possible.

Reuse:

Just because you've used a notebook once doesn't mean you have to get rid of it! The unused paper will be helpful elsewhere, and the no one will mind you using a statistics notebook in your chemistry class the next semester. Also, you can reuse bags, clothes, etc. The possibilities of what can be reused are almost endless.

Recycle:

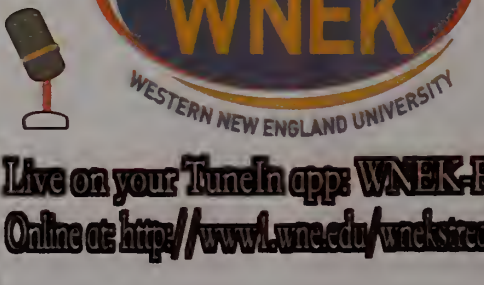
As always, recycle your paper, cans, bottles, cell phones, etc, wherever possible. Recycle bins for such items can be found around campus and in some residence halls.

Do you draw?

Have a good sense of humor?

The Westerner is looking for a comic artist to submit one comic per issue.

If interested please contact us at: westerner@wneclubs.org



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Sports & Puzzles

The Super Bowl: a sports tradition

By: Michael Masciadrelli

The Denver Broncos are on their way to Super Bowl XLVIII
Image: Ron Chenoy of USA Today

As the AFC and NFC Championship games concluded, it left two teams standing who will fight it out in the 48th edition of the Super Bowl. In the AFC Championship, the Denver Broncos trumped the New England Patriots, 26-16, at home displaying their prolific passing attack and also a surprisingly strong defensive performance, neutralizing the Patriots offense.

The Seattle Seahawks held off their NFC West division rival, the San Francisco 49ers, a few hours later winning 23-17. This game came down to the wire where a play resulted in one of Seahawks' defensive backs making headlines the next day. After being down by 23-17 with 22 seconds left, the 49ers had one last attempt to pull ahead of their NFC West rival. However, 49ers quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, failed to convert a pass to wide receiver, Michael Crabtree, in the end zone.

Seahawks defender, Richard Sherman leaped up and tipped the ball into the hands of one of his teammates to break up the play. In a post-game interview, Sherman called out Crabtree. "I'm the best corner in the game. When you try me with a sorry receiver like Crabtree, that's the result you going to get." Junior Neuroscience major, Caitlyn Barrows, was one of many who found these comments inappropriate.

"I thought his gloating at the end of the game was unsportsmanlike. He stole the thunder away from the Seahawks winning. He made it about himself rather than the team. Because of this I'm going to be a temporary Broncos fan", said Barrows.

Sherman and the Seahawks bring one of the best defenses in the NFL to the test against Peyton Manning's number one offense. In previous Super Bowls, defense has trumped offense like the ones with the Patriots and the Giants. Nonetheless, not one opponent has fared well in stopping the Broncos' attack.

Super Bowl Sunday has slowly become an unofficial national holiday in the United States. Buffalo wings, nachos, and various chip dips make up a collection of fun finger foods to enjoy watching the big game. Alex Breau, Junior Computer Science major, loves the traditions that come along with the Super Bowl.

"Since I was a kid my family would buy dozens of wings, appetizers, and plenty of other snacks to have while watching the game," said Breau.

Past commercials during the game have provided entertainment and many laughs in between the broadcast. It proves to be one of the few times people actually stay seated for the commercial breaks. The rock band, the Red Hot Chili Peppers, will join Bruno Mars in a much anticipated halftime show. Every year the Super Bowl continues to increase in the number of people tuning in. Last year, over 111 million people watched the Baltimore Ravens win the Super Bowl. It was the highest number of people watching an American television program. Senior business student and Denver Broncos fan, Marissa Findholt, previews a sure-to-be good matchup between the two number one seeds.

"I'm nervous to play Seattle, they have one of the best defenses but I think the broncos can defeat them. The cold weather could be tough on Manning so it's definitely a big game for both our offense and our defense," said Findholt

Peyton Manning will be eyeing his second Super Bowl ring while Seahawks quarterback, Russell Wilson looks to achieve his first in his second season in the league. On opposite sides of their careers, one quarterback looks to begin his career the best way possible while the other hopes to add to his already hall of fame career.

Metlife Stadium, home of the Jets and Giants, in East Rutherford, NJ, will be the setting for the two west coast teams in Super Bowl XVIII on February 2nd. Playing the game in the cold climate of New Jersey in February should impact the conditions and tendencies for each team. The New England Patriots, the San Francisco 49ers, and their fans can only wonder on what could have been. Patriots fans like Junior Alex Breau, admits his disappointment after their loss in the AFC Championship, but still plans on watching the Super Bowl.

"I am mostly excited about just watching a good football game and of course the great commercials," said Breau. "I will definitely be watching the game with my friends, but I will not be rooting for either team and mostly just watching it for the fun and excitement that comes with the big football game."

Despite whether you support one team or the other, the Super Bowl remains to be special each year.

"To me the Super Bowl means a time for all your friends and family to get together and watch a great game while enjoying each other's company," said Breau.

Take it all in. Whether it's an escape from studying, a time to spend time with friends or family, or just wanting to watch football, let it be a night we all can enjoy.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? If you answered yes to any of those questions, joining The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you, whether you are an accomplished journalist or just someone looking to make their voice heard.

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are every other Thursday @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 126

WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE IT, THANK YOU!

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The Westerner

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Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

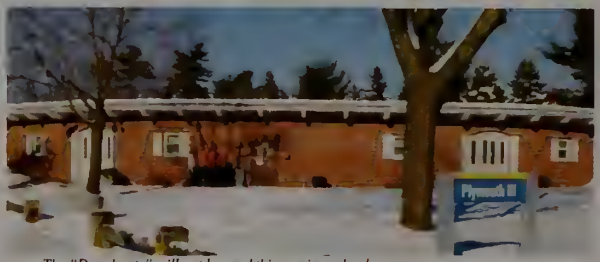
Plymouth closes for the fall

By: Gennah Borg

With much buzz around the topic, it has been confirmed that Plymouth Residence Hall will be closing for the next school year.

In August of 1977, Western New England College started a $771, 299 construction project to build three circular one-story residence hall units. The "doughnuts," as they have become known as, have each housed up to 40 Western New England students a year for the past 37 years. On February 28, 1978, Plymouth Residence Hall, the "doughnuts," had opened to the students of Western New England College.

Fast forwarding to present day, the famous campus' "doughnuts" have become the popular topic on campus of late. Rumored to be closing for the 2014/ 2015 academic school year, Dean Hart-Steffes, the Vice President for Student Affairs, confirmed that "We are closing Plymouth for this coming year because we are able to house all current and prospective students for the 2014/ 2015 academic year, given our other housing options on campus."



The "Doughnuts" will not be used this coming school year
Image: Gennah Borg

It is quite common for colleges, universities, and even public school districts to close and reopen their buildings due to the fluctuation of student enrollment over the years. A perfect example would be the construction of the Plymouth

Continued on page 2

Student activities fee for Pharmacy students

By: Sarah Wiles

In response to growing concerns from class councils, as well as other undergraduate clubs and organizations, the School of Pharmacy administration is going to subsidize first and second year Pharmacy student activities fees.

Dean Joshua Spooner from the School of Pharmacy stated, "First and second year pharmacy students who started their post high-school education at the University will continue to be able to participate in undergraduate activities along with their cohort class - the class they entered the University with. The College will be forwarding a $25 per semester payment to the Student Senate to support undergraduate activities."

Clubs and organizations are extremely appreciative of this change, seeing it having a positive impact on the undergraduate community, as well as first and second year Pharmacy students.

The School of Pharmacy is implementing the student activities fee
Image: Kaylene Hersey

Junior Matthew McLaughlin, president of the Campus Activities Board, stated, "In the past, we have had problems with getting Pharmacy students involved since they knew they could not continue after their Sophomore year. This is great news for CAB because we can now consider Pharmacy students when looking to fill positions on E-board, as well as adding students to committees. CAB and all clubs should be very happy to see this change, and clubs will benefit from having Pharmacy students in their ranks."

Dean Spooner also stated, "The College of Pharmacy has been fortunate to have learners maintain significant representation within their respective Class Councils; this arrangement helps to strengthen the bond they've developed with friends, roommates, and classmates from their pre-pharmacy years."

Pharmacy students also see this having a positive impact, as they will now be able to participate in undergraduate activities with their cohort classmates. These include regular events around campus, in addition to the Campus Activities Board Travel Committee's off campus ventures, and traditional class events, like Midnight Madness, Wings Over WNE, and Senior

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News & Entertainment

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Plymouth continued from first page

Residence Hall back in the late 1970's, when this housing complex was originally a necessary addition to the Western New England campus, due to the surge of undergraduate enrollment.

Furthermore, the closing of the Plymouth Residence Hall is partially due to "Sustainability reasons," stated Dean Hart-Steffes. "We will be able to save electricity, water, and other University resources that would otherwise have been used to maintain and operate the facility."

At this time, Dean Hart-Steffes would also like the student body to know that the closing of the Plymouth Residence Hall is a temporary decision and will be reviewed in the future as needed.

With the closing of Plymouth Residence Hall, what are the housing options for sophomore students looking to live on campus next year? According to Dean Wozniak, Assistant Dean of Students and Dean of Residence Life, "We in Residence Life have spent time discussing the 'competitiveness of the housing process' or, in other words, what the closing of Plymouth Residence Hall means for pending sophomores. One possible outcome is that we will see more students, specifically student groups, who apply for acceptance to the LaRiviere Living and Learning Center."

With that, Dean Wozniak adds, "This may create a more competitive process in order to live there [the LaRiviere Living and Learning Center] next year, since the capacity of the building remains at 162, which consists of 156 students and six Resident Advisors."

Students not interested in or not chosen to live in LaRivere will be able to participate in the university's housing selection process, Housing Management Application, as has always been the case.

Additionally, Dean Wozniak and the Residence Life staff have recently set aside space for pending sophomores in Commonwealth Residence Hall. Under this arrangement, "We will also be pairing some adjacent rooms together, so that groups of four will be able to choose two rooms next door to each other," stated Dean Wozniak regarding the new living arrangements for Commonwealth Residence Hall.

Future generations of students of Western New England University, particularly sophomores, will now have the opportunity to take advantage of new housing opportunities, just as students who had the opportunity to live in Plymouth Residence Hall have done in years past. Some of the features of the famous "doughnuts" housing complex that will be missed include the center courtyard of each building and the conjoining entry way, which allowed groups of students to feel as though they had a "suite like" atmosphere.

One current Plymouth Hall resident stated his favorite part of living in the "doughnuts" was "the courtyard…That's our hallway."

Pharmacy continued from first page

Week.

First year Pharmacy student Harvard Bridges stated, "Having been involved in different undergraduate clubs and organizations as a Pre-Pharmacy major, I'm glad I get to continue to participate in them alongside my friends and classmates."

Sophomore Christina Di Donato, a Pre-Pharmacy major, stated, "I'm glad that a middle ground as been reached. The earlier decision seemed to isolate the pharmacy students too much, although a good amount of pharmacy students arrived just for the graduate program and therefore do not have as much of a connection to campus life. Those who began prepharmacy at Western New England can continue to enjoy events with traditional juniors and seniors, while other students do not need to worry about a Student Activities fee that they would not feel the need to use."

Record Review: The Captain & Tennille

By: Frank Maturo

The rooster crowed, the snow fell, and The Captain and Tennille soothed the soul of a young man on February 3, 2014. Sifting through vinyl records on a cold afternoon, I found myself wielding a weapon of love, passion and affection. I wielded the vinyl gold that is "Love Will Keep Us Together" by The Captain & Tennille. The Captain & Tennille may not still have love keeping them together, as it was recently revealed they are filing for divorce, but this record does justice to the love that was present between them come 1975 at A & M Records.

The lead track "Love Will Keep Us Together" stirs in my head and I visualize myself as Jerry McGuire, telling Dorothy Boyd, "You complete me." Toni Tennille's vocals preach how love can engulf the human mind, body, and soul. "Love ain't always easy, but that don't mean love ain't love," said a gloomy stranger I met in October 2013 at a Springfield bus stop. Yes good stranger, love is love.

Moving through the track list your ears find "The Good Songs" and a darn good song it is! "The Good Songs" define the ability of music to get us through rough times, such as forgetting to separate your whites and colors during laundry... unless you always wanted red undergarments...

The titles on the track list are intoxicating in themselves, with tracks such as "God Only Knows", "The Way I Want to Touch You", and "Gentle Stranger." Little is known about these tracks before you hear them, but there is something to be said of a song's title and the power it wields in developing a listeners expectations for a new track.

The Captain and Tennille's "Love Will Keep Us Together" will give you a taste of that smooth kind of love - the love you can't find in a textbook, but the love only you know when the timing is right. Until next time, best of luck in life and love, and take a listen to the gloomy stranger at the bus stop, they might hold the key to something a textbook does not.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you!!

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are every other Thursday @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 126

ENTERTAINMENT

TV Review: Super Bowl commercials

By: Robert Gilchrist

Why do we do it? Why do we keep giving in? Every year we get our hopes up, only to have them shot down time and time again.

These Super Bowl Ads will be the death of us all.

Okay, that might be a bit of an exaggeration, but you get what I'm saying. Every year we go into the Super Bowl knowing that while the game might be good, the ads that air in between the game will be great. That's what we're promised. It's what we've come to expect. It's what brings even the casual viewer to watch the big game, just so they know all about the ads that aired during it.

Yet for the umpteenth time, the ads were poor. Not just poor, but downright disappointing. It's time these big companies started changing things up, because no matter what they air it feels like we've seen it all before.

There's the "it's so funny it's stupid" ads that always grabs people's attention. Doritos stood out as one of the few highlights this year, with both their time-travel spot and the cowboy kid ad. But in the end, they just felt like the same thing we've seen year in and year out. It was funny, sure...but not as funny the first time we saw it.

Then there's the "sentimental, hits your right in the feels" spots that always try and strike home for the viewers. Budweiser always has the Clydesdale ads, but Coca-Cola also managed to latch onto this trend with their "America" ad. But these can only go so far. Viewers can see sentiment any time of the year (especially Christmastime.) These ads work, but not as far as they could.

What it boils down to is that these two formulas have been wheeled out so many times that every rendition and variation imaginable has been seen and done. There needs to be a change down to the very basic structure of what makes up a spot of this magnitude so that they can resonate with fans more strongly.

Bud Light had a chance to really make something unique with their "up for anything" ads, but these also failed to really make an impression. The idea of having a "two- part" commercial isn't necessarily unique (look at the Steven Colbert Pistachios ad,) but Bud Light had the chance to do something really unique with their set-up. They dropped the ball, and it's a shame.

Axe also tried something unique by inverting the funny formula and going for a bizarre feel with their "peace" ad, which no one knew was for Axe (or at least I didn't know) until the final shot. This was interesting, and has potential to be a jumping off point for other companies to follow from.

But it wasn't necessarily all doom and gloom for this year's batch of commercials. Strangely enough, the real winners this year were the car companies, which had some humorous and clever spots. From the Rob Riggle/James Franco redo Ford commercial to the Audi compromise ad, there were a few sparkles amongst the dull collection. But even these couldn't save the ads from feeling disappointing.

It's hard to say where these commercials should go from here. Humor seems to have run its course, sentimentality doesn't seem to ring true as much as it used to, and even big celebrities can't bring home the big cheers - I'm not the only one who was disappointed by the Oikos "Full House" reunion ad, am I? These companies need to step up their game, or else people might actually care more about the big game than they do the stuff going on in between the plays.

Movie Review: Frozen

By: Elizabeth Thompson

Disney's Frozen is still showing at select theaters
Image: Frozen Official Facebook Page

There are many of us who feel a certain sense of nostalgia when we see that Disney has released another princess movie. Disney did not disappoint with their newest animated movie, Frozen, as they introduced two new princesses, Elsa and Anna. Disney did hold up to some of their stereotypical themes, but also broke past some as well. Not to mention the last time I paid to see a movie twice in theaters was when Wall-E came out in 2008. Frozen was definitely worth the re-watch.

The movie takes place in the kingdom Arendelle. As children, Anna knows that Elsa has the power of ice and snow, but during an accident, she is forced to forget Elsa's powers. Elsa locks herself away from both Anna and her parents, afraid that she could accidently hurt them. Her parents let go of most of the staff and lock the gates to the palace to keep Elsa's powers a secret. Then, in the tradition of most Disney movies, the parents must depart and during a storm at sea their lives are taken away from them. Shortly after, Elsa being the eldest is forced to open up the gates and allow people into the castle for her coronation ceremony. During this entire time, Anna has no idea why she has been shut out from Elsa's life and from life outside of the palace.

After the coronation, Anna and Prince Hans fall in love with one and other. They ask for Elsa's blessing to get married. At this point, Elsa breaks one of the stereotypical Disney plot lines when she says: "You can't marry a man you just met." I love this line because so many times we have watched as Disney princesses fall in love at first sight. I'm sure many of you are thinking of Disney's Brave, but that movie was focused more on family love than the love between a man and a woman.

Elsa cancels the party and anna grabs her glove. Elsa's fear takes over and she uses her powers in front of everyone. Scared for her life, Elsa runs away from the palace to the mountains where she can suddenly be free, not realizing that she has cursed Arendelle into an eternal winter. Anna leaves Hans in charge and takes off after her sister. She hopes to find her sister, prove that Elsa is good, and have her bring back summer. That is where she meets Kristoff, a man who cannot stand people, but begrudgingly decides to help her against his better judgment.

Frozen features an amazing soundtrack – the most popular song being Elsa's Let It Go sung by Idina Menzel. This song was by far my favorite and has also been nominated for a Golden Globe Award as well as an Academy Award.

The one flaw I was able to point out in Frozen was that it was based off of Hans Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen. I have read The Snow Queen and though I was not a fan of it, decided to see Frozen anyways. To be honest, I only saw a few minor references to the fairy tale which is both good and bad seeing as I did not like the tale, but that they failed to give the story they had intended. Had Frozen kept closer to the storyline, I am not as sure that the movie would have done nearly as well as it had. It made over $600 million in the box office, second to Disney's Lion King and is still out in theaters along with a special sing-along version in select theaters.

Unfortunately for this time around, there was no true villain song. Surprisingly I am all right with this. The movie moved along expertly without the song and I almost wonder if the song would have been too clunky. With that said, Frozen has really stepped up Disney's game and I am looking forward to Disney's next film.

Entertainment

Bad Blood and Buried Hatchets: A Concert Review

By: Spencer Ives

The music industry has proved itself, over time, to be a difficult business. It requires a lot of people- and a lot of people working together. There can be differences, disagreements, or any number of incidents that bring problems. One such feud that has arisen in the last few years has been between the groups Escape the Fate and Falling in Reverse.

As a brief history, Ronnie Radke, the original singer of Escape the Fate, was sentenced to prison in 2008, forcing the band to find a replacement. Their choice was Craig Mabbit, originally from Blessthefall. When Ronnie got out of prison in late 2010, he formed Falling in Reverse.

Since, there have been many jabs that have been made by Falling in Reverse. Lyrically, certain phrases have popped up in their songs that seem to be openly referencing Radke's musical history. The line 'I've learned that my fate is something I can't escape…' occurs in the first song of the first album released upon Radke's return to the music industry. One song off Escape the Fate's first album with Mabbit as their singer was entitled "Ten Miles Wide." Later, in Falling in Reverse's first album, Radke sings 'I dug a hole ten miles wide, so I can throw all of you inside….'

This history is what causes the surprise at seeing both of these names at the top of a concert listing, under the title of their 'Bury the Hatchet Tour.' As it sounds, Falling in Reverse and Escape the Fate had set up a tour, also featuring the bands Survive This and Chelsea Grin. The response to this tour was mammoth, with the lines at The Palladium, in Worcester, looking about a thousand strong on the night of Saturday, February 2. It was and is a beautiful venue I've been to many times before. It was originally a classic theater hall, before becoming a well-known concert venue for metal, hardcore, post-hardcore, and a variety of harder musical styles.

Starting before I could even get inside, Survive This could be heard on the streets. They proved to have a strong start to the night, with a solid performance and a great crowd response. They utilized a heavy bass line to shake the floors, but the most remarkable thing about their performance was the supreme balance to each aspect of their sound. All instruments could be heard clearly, none outshining the other, and the music never seemed to challenge the vocals. The vocals themselves were a great combination of screaming, growling, and singing, without giving too much presence to one or the other.

A rather large, but partially unavoidable, problem with this concert was the flow of it. Survive This played for 25 minutes, followed by an additional 25 minutes of setting up for Chelsea Grin. This pattern really became quite a break in flow and continuity. The show became an alternation between a near half-hour of high-energy activity and involvement, followed by an equal proportion of time yawning and milling about.

Chelsea Grin then walked on stage and gave another great, well-balanced performance that met an equally responsive crowd. A staple to a live performance is crowd control; if they play a song to jump to, does the audience jump? In this case, it was well orchestrated; people bounced, moshed, and threw their hands up at the signaling of the band. Though, a 'responsive' crowd is difficult to 'control.' Problems occurred, people were crowd-surfed and haphazardly thrown into mosh-pits. Some were escorted out for excessive violence, and others were carried out concussed or losing consciousness, including one girl that I saw who didn't appear older than 13. Phones were lost, glasses and watches-shattered.

Their mosh-pits were talked about well before their performance. They succeeded in setting up a functioning death wall, a maneuver where the crowd divides itself into two sides, then, when the singer says go, runs, beats, and flails into the each other as two moving 'walls' with as much aggression and intensity as they can muster. Yet, I and the people I went with agreed that the pits were underwhelming on the whole, even awkward at times, because of the pace of the music and the miss-timed initiatives of the crowd.

Escape the Fate came out and played to a crowd that was obviously happy to see them. The response was fantastic, the crowd went nuts. Undoubtedly, I was excited too, yet, a considerably amount of energy seemed sapped out by the considerate wait. Mabbit's vocals seemed a little low for the set-up, giving the lyrics a slightly washed out feel. Overall, though, they played well, and seemed to really showcase the songs that they originally produced with Mabbit.

The curious thing I found about the line-up was just this, that Escape the Fate came on first, giving the final slot to Falling in Reverse. And, even more curious is the point that they were more than welcomed by the crowd, but, there seemed to be a smaller response than what their predecessor was shown. Regardless, as with each other group, they offered a top-notch performance, using this tour to represent their first album "The Drug in Me is You" as well as their more recent "Fashionably Late." Songs from the latter of these two were certainly quite different, now incorporating elements of rap and even dubstep in their sounds, while also still maintaining a post-hardcore core of hard and fast music with a balance of screaming and vocals.

There was not an encore, but in its place, a finale. After a short break, Falling in Reverse returned to the stage to play a couple more of their prominent songs. This was followed by a second encore. This time, a duet performance of Escape the Fate's well-known early songs, "Not Good Enough for Truth in Cliché" and "Situations," sung between both Radke and Mabbit. There is something truly fitting the 'bury the hatchet' vibe, about seeing the figureheads of this feud arm in arm singing "The situations… are irrelevant now…."

Snow Tube with CAB

Need plans for the Valentine's Day weekend? Travel with CAB to the Berkshire East Mountains on Saturday, February 15, for an afternoon of snow tubing and winter fun for only $8! Snacks and refreshments are available but for individual purchase only. The morning of the trip, we will be leaving at 10:45 a.m. from the rear of the St. Germain Campus Center. We will be snow tubing from noon until 2 p.m. that afternoon and will be returning back to campus nearing 3:30 p.m.

Please visit the University Tickets website to purchase your tickets today! Tickets are limited! Sales end at noon on Friday, February 14! Be sure to purchase yours before it's too late! CAB cannot wait to travel with you!

FEATURES

College Bites: Al's Diner

By: Kaylene Hersey

I had dragged myself out of bed on a Saturday morning, and what I wanted was a nice breakfast at a hometown diner. Well, let's just say after eating at Al's Diner, I'm still missing the "nice" part.

Al's Diner, located in Chicopee, was not what I expected. From the outside, it was a little run down, but I've learned to not judge a restaurant by their outside. That is no way to judge food. Many of the places I have reviewed this past year have been a little run down and still the food was fantastic. But this is a place that I would never suggest anybody to go because it wasn't just the food that turned me away.

None of the food blew me away, but that's okay. I don't go to a diner for a gourmet meal, mainly because my wallet cannot take a hit like that for a meal that I often go without. I tried

Al's Diner is located in Chicopee, MA
Image: Kaylene Hersey

their French toast and Eggs Benedict. Though I thought the French toast was very nice, the Eggs Benedict could have been better. The Hollandaise sauce wasn't thick enough and it left a bad taste in my mouth. I couldn't finish that dish, though I was far from full.

It wasn't just that the food was so-so. When I go to a diner, the one thing that I look forward to is the hospitality. I love the glowing smiles on the waitresses' faces and the homey feeling, even when you're surrounded by strangers. However, at Al's Diner, I was well aware of the fact that I was sitting next to strangers. But not just the customers - I felt the same vibe with the employees and this is very disheartening when all I wanted was a nice meal with some nice company. There were some rude comments made to customers, including myself, and it made me very uncomfortable. Nevertheless, these were not by far the worst of the issues.

Like I said earlier, Al's was pretty run down from the outside. I never deduct points for this because generally what is on the inside of the restaurant makes up for it. However, Al's seemed run down on the inside also. The tables were in bad condition. The bar of the diner, generally the best seats at a diner in my opinion, did not look inviting. The stool covers were tearing, and it just didn't look welcoming. If anything, it felt dingy and dirty.

It was very cramped inside, which generally wouldn't be bad if I felt welcomed there. However, the wait staff's priority was to finish serving the customers rather than make sure the customers enjoyed their time there.

Al's Diner really disappointed me, but it also inspired me to find a nice diner around the area. Hopefully, my next food endeavors will hit the jackpot, not only when it comes to food, but also service. Though I do not recommend it at all, Al's Diner is located at 14 Yelle Street, in Chicopee.

World Hijab Day

By: Stefani Feole

For centuries, women of Muslim descent have been known to wear the traditional Hijab, a visible symbol of dressing modestly. For those who are unaware, women of Muslim descent wear the Hijab, a headscarf, in public as part of their dress code to put more emphasis on their inner beauty, rather than their physical beauty. There is often criticism and stigma surrounding this tradition claiming that this may single women out and objectify them. These claims are simply untrue. Hijab is worn to shift focus away from what a woman looks like and towards her "character and merit as an individual." While the choice of wearing Hijab can be both cultural and/or religious, it is simply that- a choice. Many different countries have passed various laws to either ban or limit the use of Hijab simply due to a misunderstanding of what Hijab really means in Islam and to Muslim people. To create more awareness on Hijab, a day has been dedicated to encourage other women of different cultures and religions to wear the traditional Hijab.

World Hijab Day was created and founded by Nazma Khan, a young Muslim woman who had first moved to America at the age of eleven with her family. Her everyday struggle of maintaining her modesty and making a choice to wear Hijab had not only been questioned by her peers, but also by an English teacher of hers. After suffering from both physical, and verbal attacks from many, Nazma Khan chose to invite women of all faiths to walk in her shoes as a Muslim woman for a single day each year. On January 21, 2013 Nazma launched the website worldhijabday.com along with the Facebook fan page. Within eight days of posting both the website and the Facebook fan page, women from over 67 countries worldwide, many of which were not Muslim, responded to Nazma's efforts. February 1, 2014 marks the second year of World Hijab Day, a day in which women of all races and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to walk in the shoes of a Muslim woman for a single day.

Here at Western New England University, we celebrated this international awareness day for the first time on Tuesday, February 4, 2014. Zainab Ahmad, both an exemplary leader and Muslim woman here at the University, decided to honor this cause by passing out headscarves to women across campus, encouraging them to do exactly as many other women across the world have done through Nazma Khan's efforts. This event took place in the campus center from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Women across campus were encouraged to wear Hijab simply for two hours and share their experiences with one another. This event was very successful in that many women here on campus seized the opportunity to partake in this beautiful event that means a lot to so many women across the world. After speaking with Zainab Ahmad and reflecting with her on this cause,

Students enjoying World Hijab Day
Image: Enrique Elizondo

she stated that the purpose of this event was not only to create awareness but also "for others to understand [our faith], but also for us to understand others as well."

There are many misconceptions surrounding this choice that many women make, but this international cause allows for global awareness of everything that many Muslim people stand for and believe in. Respect is crucial in understanding other's beliefs and morals. A little respect goes a long way, and partaking in this event allowed for much insight and respect for others and what they truly value. Thank you to all that both ran and participated in this event! For more information regarding Hijab and this holiday, please visit Worldhijabday.com and also the "World Hijab Day" Facebook fan page.

Features & Opinion

Western New England's International Club

By: Jolina Blier

It's time to move up in the world and trade in those old rose colored glasses for a more fashionable global lens! In today's world, global citizenship is a trait that will allow you to soar above other applicants upon entering the workforce, while also advancing personal growth. When you hear the term "Global Citizenship," you may think "Gee, that sounds expensive." But it's not. Global citizenship is not defined by the number of stamps in a passport; it is a passion for knowledge, understanding, personal growth, and being a part of something bigger than yourself. The global environment is incredibly vast, and is becoming more and more of a factor in all professions in this country. By global environment, I do not mean the literal environment and every piece of land on the planet. I mean the interconnectedness of people, places, and things that influences our lives every day.

This year, Western New England University is in the process of reinstating the International Club as a recognized club on campus. What is the purpose of the club, you might ask? The club exists for many reasons. For international students (there are over 100 on our campus,) it serves as an opportunity to meet their peers and learn more about American culture. For students returning from studying abroad, the International Club helps to stay connected to the experience and continue learning about other cultures. For all students, it serves as an opportunity to enhance their world-mindedness and learn more every day.

Some of the benefits of being a member of the International Club can be as big as helping you get a job after college or as seemingly insignificant as broadening your personal horizons. Others include networking, seeing as you will make friends from all over the world. Social skills and intercultural skills will be greatly enhanced by participation. If you are to take part in organizing our events or showing around international students, you will be generating a leadership background, as well as developing organizational and management skills. Lastly, this club is, of course, for friendship and fun!

Start by liking us on Facebook at WNE International Office, then come to one of our meetings in Conference Room 4 of the Campus Center on Tuesdays at 1pm. In addition to our club meetings, we have outings and fun on-campus events all the time! Here are a few reasons you should try out the club.

You'll find yourself a new person with a new global identity, and remember, identity transcends geographic and cultural borders. We hope to see you soon!

Any questions should be directed to Andres Otero, ao323723@wne.edu, the President of the International Club.

Crime Prevention

By: Sgt. Stacy Gamache

Residence halls and private residences

Keep the door(s) to your room or residence and windows locked at all times.

Never sleep in an unlocked room or house.

If you lose the keys to your residence, have the lock(s) changed. On campus residents should notify Residential Life immediately.

Require callers to identify themselves before opening your door. Campus and non-campus residents should require official identification from all repair or service personnel.

Do not let strangers in to use your telephone. Direct them to a public telephone.

If you find that your room has been entered, do not go inside. Go to a neighbor and call the University Police Department or Springfield Police Department if you live off campus. If you are already inside, do not touch anything. You may disturb evidence that is important to the police investigation.

If an intruder awakens you in your room, do not try to apprehend him. He may be armed or may easily arm himself with something inside the room. If he poses an immediate threat, get out of the room.

If you see a suspicious person or vehicle on campus or in your neighborhood, immediately contact the University Police Department or Springfield Police Department if you live off campus. Try to get the license plate number.

Do not allow strangers to follow you into your residence hall.

Qualms & Quarrels: Advice Column

Q: I'm thinking about entering a writing piece to the creative works contest that I saw in the University Posts, the "I Have a Dream" one, but I don't know where to start, or even if I'd be any good. Do you know of anything that might help? –Skeptic Writer

A: Skeptic Writer, I sure have some advice for you! First and foremost: Go for it! Honestly, you have nothing to lose by entering the contest. If they like what you write, you might win! And if they don't, at least you tried and there's always next time. But, like I said, just diving in and going for it in the first place is your only chance at seeing if you've got what it takes. It might just be worth your while!

As for where to start, read the requirements carefully - I've done some as well, so I can be of more help to you. Then, brainstorm some ideas. Think about what diversity and/or social justice really means to you personally, and how these factors affect your life. Think of what a better United States of America would be to you. Then, let creativity take the wheel. Write until your hand cramps up if you have to! Crumple up and toss out a million rough drafts and single lined starts if you have to, but whatever you do, don't give up!

Take the essence of this topic and really make it your own. Then submit your final product, whichever you are most proud of, and hope for the best. Always remember when it comes to things of this nature, you never have anything to lose. At the end of the day, you should be proud of yourself for trying because this is an awesome experience to be a part of, regardless if you win or lose. Good luck Writer, and I hope you come up with a fantastic final piece!

Senior Week Deposits On Sale Now!!!

Senior Week deposits are on sale, and going fast. The $50 deposit is due very soon: February 15 at 11:59pm. Senior Week starts May 10, the day after the last day of finals. The activities include:

- A barbeque where there will be food, drinks, games, and prizes.
- A trip to Mohegan Sun Casino, and participating students will be given a voucher to enjoy the restaurants and gambling opportunities.
- An all-day pig roast (in addition to vegetarian options)
- A trip to Brownstone Park in Connecticut
- An evening at Shish Lounge in West Hartford
- A day trip to Boston
- Finally a brunch for all the seniors

Senior Week concludes on May 16, the day before graduation. The total cost of the trip is $285, and the final deposit will be due April 4. Seniors, do not miss out on this final week to make memories and say goodbye to your alma mater.

Tickets can be purchased on University tickets (wneu.universitytickets.com)

Opinion

Spread the love

By: Stefani Feole

Prepare yourselves people, Valentine's Day is upon us! Chocolates, flowers, stuffed animals; all of the above are acceptable gifts, so take notes my friends. While I'm sure that most of you believe that Valentine's Day is simply a "Hallmark Holiday," others cherish this day to show loved ones what they truly mean to one another. Whether you are single or in a committed relationship, Valentine's Day can be enjoyable for you! So get up off your behind and stop sulking about how alone you are because most of us are right there with you! This lovely holiday should be filled with admiration for those who you cherish around you. Forget about what Valentine's Day "should" mean and turn it into something positive for everyone you enjoy being with. Make it a point to enjoy it yourself!

For all of you single ladies and fellas out there, go enjoy the day however your little heart desires! Whether that be treating yourself to the finer things in life because, hey, you deserve happiness too! You too can afford all of those materialistic things that you enjoy so much because who else do you have to spend your money on? You could also simply pretend that this day is just another Friday and go about your business; there is no shame in that! But remember people, Valentine's Day certainly does not have to be celebrated with a significant other; it can be shared and celebrated with parents, siblings, friends, or anyone of your choosing! This day is about appreciating those who are there for you and about feeling bad for those who are not.

On the contrary, I know that many of you singles out there have someone in mind, so take advantage of this opportunity and get a little creative to remind that person that you enjoy the time you spend together! You have every other Friday night to go out and do your own thing, so make this Friday night a night to remember with that specific person. Now, by no means am I saying that you should profess your love for him or her over scattered rose pedals and some fine wine, but do something unordinary and fun. This day only comes once a year so make it a good one and make it last.

As for all of you couples that are just too cute to even be around, seriously, stop being so precious; appreciate one another like you do every other day throughout the year. Just because society tells you that there is one day during the year that you must pamper your loved one and "value" him or her more, does not mean that you shouldn't be treating your loved one with any less care on any of those other 364 days! Just a little extra attention and maybe a brand new car will suffice and be more than enough! I seriously do not recommend it but hey, people do crazy things when they're in love so why not do them all on Valentine's Day?

Above all, enjoy this day and try to keep all of the negativity, stress, and pressure away. There is no shame in being alone and there is no such thing as going overboard on a day like Valentine's Day. Spread some love Western New England, and do it in a cheesy way to prove that it's real. I know I will be!

Post graduation: insight into the real world

By: Victoria Katko

What happens after we graduate? Is it back to mom's basement we go? Or onwards to the land of white shirts and ties? A zombie apocalypse? We're not that lucky. I digress.

I've worked at a Fortune 100 company for three years now. Part-time during school, full-time in summer. Here's what I've learned.

Success doesn't happen by accident. Just like you don't wake up sober on the last day of a semester with a 4.0 GPA, you don't wander into a CEO office one day and find that you run a multi-million enterprise. Success is intentional, the treasure at the end of a long exhaustive hunt.

Somewhere along the road, college students realize that they can't do it all and honestly, they don't want to do it all. That's completely fine. Brutal honesty is foundational to a successful career. So many people lift their heads many years down the road, bewildered and disappointed by the place they're in and the work they're doing.

Know who you are and what you want. Actively pursue this so that you invest your time, energy, and life into something you believe in. This takes time - a process composed of progressive revelations as you take intentional risks to learn about yourself. People will always offer, nag, criticize, push, and pull you to submit to their own agenda. You must learn how to be honest about what is important to you and say no to what is not.

Paul Graham puts it this way, "It's adults that take responsibility for themselves. Making a living is only a small part of it. Far more important is to take intellectual responsibility for oneself." So success in the working world? It starts here.

Take responsibility for yourself. Quit whining about the hard teachers and big homework assignments. School is designed in this crazy way where teachers have one job - to make you smarter on the last day of class than you were on the first day of class. It's supposed to be hard. You're supposed to be confused once in a while, have to work late occasionally, and study more than one hour.

Yes, college is an experience, but it's an education first. That means that the alcohol comes after the books, the parties after lectures, and the games after homework. College is not for everyone, but that's okay.

The next step to a successful career is to understand your profession. If you don't know what you want to do, then do something that will make you money and go from there. Nip, tuck, and tailor to your heart's content but graduate with something solid. At the very least you'll need money to eat and pay off your school debt. People will often say you have all the time in the world, but usually they are benefiting financially from your indecision.

It takes years of hard work, of sweat and tears, of sacrifices to succeed. And every profession will require you to pay some sort of due.

John Graham, a successful business owner, writes to his son who is finishing college and joining the family business: "There is plenty of room at the top here, but there is no elevator in the building. Starting as you do, with a good education, you should be able to climb quicker than the fellow who hasn't got it; but there's going to be a time when you begin at the factory when you won't be able to lick stamps so fast as the other boys at the desk. Yet a man who has not licked stamps is not fit to write letters."

Consider realistically what will be required of you in each profession. Lawyer? Mountains of paperwork and years of kissing senior partners' rear ends before (and if) you become one yourself. Doctor? Years and years of school with a nice mountain of debt. Software engineer? Back pain, thicker glasses each year, and a constant scramble to stay current. A career isn't some gloriously golden paved highway with servants handing you everything on a silver platter.

If you're unwilling to pay the price, perhaps it's time to consider another profession. There is no shame in changing your mind. If it's a bad fit, get out as soon as you realize this. Just understand that the more you change your mind - the more time and money it will cost you.

And finally, you need to understand your competition. In the marvelous era of outsourcing, you're no longer competing against the local workforce. The remote world and the internet have widened the resource pool for employers for half the price! It's a reality of the present working world -- yes, I hate it too. So now it's the whiz programmer that also can turn on the charm for the senior leadership team presentation and manage a team successfully that is hired. It's the communication major that can charm the socks off of the CEO with their number savvy skills and solid business theory that gets promoted.

Employers are now looking for the package deal. Pick a niche to specialize in, and then fill out the blanks with a powerful assembly of practical skills. "Anything glamorous is likely to be highly competitive, and only those with the most solid of backgrounds (in particular, lots of experience with less glamorous aspects of the field) are likely to get anywhere," writes Terence Tao, a mathematical genius.

You need to begin assembling this package deal right now in college! Learn how to communicate clearly, write concisely, lead wisely, confront kindly, and follow with intelligence. The business world is changing fast and it will not wait for those who do not have the foresight to prepare.

Research and learn how to balance and prioritize your have-tos and want-tos. Because, trust me, it only gets harder as you throw your own family, a full-time job, and bills into the mix. Start good habits now, lay a good foundation now, and you'll reap the benefits later on.

Know who you are, where you're going, and with whom you're competing. These are the first steps to a successful career.

Sports

2014 AL East preview: who's the favorite?

By: Michael Masciadrelli

Valentine's Day not only marks a day that brings together loved ones, but this year, also the return of America's National Pastime: baseball. Pitchers and catchers reunite February 13th to begin baseball's preseason, otherwise known as spring training, which starts the following day. Teams take this time to test out prospects in their farm system and for players to physically prepare for the 162 game regular season ahead of them. In the past few months, Major League Baseball teams have looked for ways to improve their roster for the upcoming season. The winter meetings allow owners and general managers to determine possible free agent signings, trades, and if any of the ballplayers from the minors are ready for the big time.

The 2013 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox surprised everyone last season going from worst to first in the division. A few simple changes to the lineup, a new head coach, and a collection of beards were all they needed to become a world champion. This offseason, they were relatively quiet. They were able to resign first basemen Mike Napoli, but did lose starting center field Jacoby Ellsbury to the Yankees. Koji Uehara, American League Champion Series MVP, returns as one of the most dominant closers in baseball. Young stars on the rise, Will Middlebrooks, Jackie Bradley, Daniel Nava, and

Ellsbury signed with the New York Yankees
Image: John Monchillo of the Boston Globe

Xander Bogaerts all will be expected to contribute and increase their production. Their pitching staff looks to be effective with Jon Lester, Clay Bucholz, and John Lackey leading the rotation.

The Tampa Bay Rays squeaked into the playoffs last season as a wild card, despite being 5.5 games behind the Red Sox. After being swept by Boston in the first round of the playoffs, the Rays finished in disappointing fashion. With the Rays having a much smaller budget than the Red Sox or Yankees, they look to be a similar team as last season using their starting rotation as their strength. Southpaw and 2012 Cy Young winner David Price, leads the rotation followed by another young, hard-throwing lefty, Matt Moore. This offseason they focused on improving their bullpen, adding righties Grant Balfour and Heath Bell. With pitching being a focus for the Rays, don't be surprised to see them in contention this season. .

The New York Yankees finished 3rd in the AL East behind the Rays and the Red Sox, failing to make the playoffs for the first time since 1995. This disappointment helped jump start an offseason busy of spending. On December 3rd, the Yankees signed former Braves catcher, Brian McCann who provides some power as a left-handed hitter, and a strong fielding catcher. Their most prized acquisition came at the expense of the Boston Red Sox, signing outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury to a 7 year, $155 million dollar contract. New York mirrored a similar decision to 2009 when they pulled Johnny Damon out of Boston.

The Yankees outfield has been completely reshuffled with the Ellsbury signing and newly acquired outfielder Carlos Beltran, who played on the NL Champion St. Louis Cardinals last season. The pitching staff also received a boost with the Yankees going overseas, and signing Masahiro Tanaka from Japan. Tanaka did not lose one game last season, going 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA for the Rakuten Tigers. The Yankees plan on Tanaka being a pitcher they can count on every fifth day. With Alex Rodriguez being suspended for the entire season and star second basemen Robinson Cano signing with Seattle, it leaves a couple empty gaps in the lineup. 40 year old, Derek Jeter, will be playing his last season, as announced on February 12. Have the added pieces outweigh these other question marks?

The Toronto Blue Jays finished in last after many thought they may contend for first place last year. They brought in a collection of stars last season including starting pitcher Mark Buerhle, former Mets second basemen Jose Reyes, and Marlins pitcher Josh Johnson. Unfortunately, the team didn't seem to click and finished last in the division at 74-88. 2012 Cy Young award winner, R.A Dickey, joined them last season, but didn't carry over the same effectiveness as he did for the Mets, posting a 4.21 ERA. Since they weren't able to do much over the offseason, don't expect them to stay level with their AL East competition.

Last but not least, the Baltimore Orioles have now become a threat in recent years at the expense of the Yankees, Red Sox, and Rays. They found themselves tied with the Yankees at 85-77 as the 2013 season ended. Despite missing the playoffs, it was the first time they achieved back-to-back winning seasons since 1996-1997. Heading into 2014, the Orioles have not made any key trades or acquisitions. Their offense still looks strong with the one-two punch of first basemen, Chris Davis and outfielder Adam Jones in the center of their lineup. Davis provides Baltimore a powerful bat. The 27 year old smacked 53 home runs and 138 RBI's last season, leading the league in both. Their pitching staff is led by young arms, Chris Tillman and Miguel Gonzalez whom combined for 27 wins in 2013. Many players are returning, but the question remains if these players can continue producing at the same level.

The changes made by the Yankees this offseason highlighted the winter meetings in Major League Baseball. By spending over 400 million dollars this offseason, they certainly made a statement to the rest of the league. Will these moves be enough to topple the defending World Champion Red Sox? Can the Orioles and Rays continue to contend with a young, farm-raised pitching staff and lineups? Do the Blue Jays have enough talent to battle this year? The Yankees and Red Sox look to be the favorites to win the division; however, the Orioles, Rays, and Blue Jays shouldn't be taken lightly.

Tickets for Senior Formal on Sale Now!!!!

This year's Senior Formal is to be held at Chez Josef in Agawam, MA, on April 11. Tickets are $75, due by March 7. Seniors, make sure you bring a special someone to enjoy this memorable evening with you. Guests do not need to be from the school. The bus departs from campus for Chez Josef at 5:00pm. Tickets can be purchases at University Tickets (wneu.universitytickets.com)

WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE IT, THANK YOU!

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The Westerner

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Please e-mail:
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Conductor Nick Page visits WNE

By: Kaylene Hersey

Western New England University hosted renowned composer and conductor Nick Page along with choirs from the greater Springfield area for a day of music, fun, and community bonding.

Bridging Communities through Song took place on February 15th in Rivers Arena. The Children's Chorus of Springfield, the Young Singers of Greater Westfield, and the Western New England University's Campus Chorus and University Singers attended the event and workshop directed by Nick Page.

Page is an international composer and conductor of both adult and children choirs. He is originally from Lexington, MA. He is known for his work with the Chicago Children's Choir.

University Singers performing at Bridging Communities through Song
Image: Freddie Schiro

"Well, I love coming out to Springfield. I want to support community singing everywhere we can. I've been a friend of the Children's chorus of Springfield for a long time since they were founded by Dr. Wayne Abercrombie, so that is why I came," said Page.

Dean Saeed Gharamani was contacted by Vera Baker, the Choral Director of the Children's Chorus of Springfield to plan this event with Nick Page. Dr. Amelia Nagoski, Visiting Instructor of Music, was then approached to involve the Music Program, who was very enthusiastic about the idea.

"It was a chance to bring members of the community onto the WNE campus, to make them welcome, and to let them know we're not an isolated island

Continued on page 2

ESL workshops in the Writing Center

By: Audrey Mckeown

Starting this month, the Western New England Writing Center is having bi-weekly workshops just for international and English-as-a-second-language students (ESL).

These workshops were set up between Professor Louise Pelletier, Director of the Writing Support Services and the Writing Center at Western New England University and Dashima Washington and Yvonne Bogle of United and Mutually Equal, the diversity club here on campus. These workshops are just one way the Writing Center is evolving to help the increasing international population on campus.

"The whole idea of this year is globalization and internationalizing the campus. There are probably more international students who are on campus this year than ever before and because of that, we need to be prepared to be as open to receiving and assisting these students as much as we possibly can," said Pelletier.

The Tutors at the Writing Center are training for ESL tutoring
Image: Kaylene Hersey

In January this year, the tutors of the Western New England Writing Center attended the annual 'tutor retreat' at The Yellow House in Palmer, Massachusetts. Professor Pelletier organized the retreat with workshops and activities that were intended to enhance their skills as tutors for international and ESL students.

One of the highlight workshops was a visit from various international students. Six current international students at Western New England spoke to the tutors about their experiences in the United States, at Western New England, as well as their experiences at the writing center.

Phuong Ha, a current Western New England student from Vietnam, attended the retreat as one of the guest speakers. Like the other international students, Phuong talked about his time in the United States and his experience at the writing center.

When asked further why he felt it was important that the tutors be trained to work with international students, Ha mentioned that he believes it is fundamental for a tutor to have the appropriate mindset and training to work with international students. Ha noted, "International students suffer tremendously because of the language barrier, so it is very difficult for one

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News

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Nick Page continued from first page

of academia, but part of the city," said Nagoski.

Nagoski is also a huge fan of Nick Page, who she had worked with before.

"He's a master of his craft and an inspiration," Nagoski said.

"I had the pleasure of meeting Nick a couple years ago at one of my brother's choir concerts and he was spectacular, so I am very glad I got to work with him," said President of WNE chorus, Freddie Schiro.

The day started out with Nick Page meeting the Western New England University's Chorus and many chorale teachers and directors to give advice about working with children.

"The event went above and beyond my expectations. I wasn't quite sure what to expect, except that we were going to be working with an incredible composer," said Senior chorus member, Sarah Wiles.

The day continued by having the Children's Chorus of Springfield and the Young Singers of Greater Westfield mix together and started singing songs with the WNE chorus helping out and supporting the children.

"It seemed like a fantastic opportunity to give our students a chance to be leaders and role models, to see themselves not just as students who follow professors, but as members of the community who have the potential and responsibility to use their position of education and privilege to contribute positively to their neighborhood just by being their magnificent selves," said Nagoski.

During the rehearsals, the choir members worked on multiple songs of different styles. Most of the songs the singers learned that day. Nick Page focused not only on pitches but on performance.

"I wanted the students to sing with Nick. I knew that Nick would reinforce the most important part of the work I do with them, which is singing not just with technical accuracy and beautiful sound, but also with emotional intention. Nick leads singing in a way that naturally guides singers towards investing themselves in their sound, infusing their voices with their humanity," said Nagoski.

The event ended in a concert that was open to the public. The audience was made up of the children's family, along with students and faculty members of WNE.

Junior Elise Duquette said, "As the President of the Band, I thought it would be a great way to see the Western New England Chorus as well as young members of the Greater Springfield Community share their voices with each other."

Also, in the audience, there were many of the music teachers from the Greater Springfield area.

"I was also thrilled to have music teachers from the area coming to WNE, hearing our choirs, and learning that there is, in fact, music on our campus--and it's engaged in connecting students to the wider world in addition to teaching them about pitches and rhythms! Also, to have so many of the children's parents in the audience means that hundreds of them will tell their family and friends about the great experience they had in the Arena at WNE, and think of this place as a part of their community," said Nagoski.

"Personally I think the event went really well. Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun and it was a good way to get WNE's name out in the community. My favorite part of the event was the ending concert. Everyone was spectacular, and there was an energetic vibe. Both choirs - ours and the youth choirs - were amazing," said Schiro.

"During one of the songs, we walked around in the audience and sang and danced, and that was so amazing- the infectious music united all of us. I think the major thing I took away from this experience was that music has the wonderful power of bringing people of all backgrounds together as a family, and that's what we were that day- a family," said Wiles.

"It was wonderful - love the college students, love their energy, I love the college itself. They all were wonderful hosts and been very nice to these children who have come here. They've really shown them excellent examples of adults," said Page about the experience.

The Western New England University Music program plan to do more programs that involve the community.

"We do plan on doing more outreach programs; I am currently looking into singing for a nursing home in the surrounding area and hopefully we can do more performances like the one we had," said Schiro.

Writing Center continued from first page

to fully express his or her thoughts with any communicating method, especially with writing."

Along with the struggle with the language barrier, there is the issue with fully understanding the requirements and techniques of an essay. Ha says, "International students usually do not know how to approach writing to meet the standards and expectations of the professor or the college level writing." Ha believes that a tutor should have adequate mental preparation and knowledge with the struggles of international students in order to help the international students on campus.

To show the struggles of being tutored in a non-native language, Professor Pelletier staged a tutoring session in Spanish. She asked two tutors, familiar with the Spanish language, to be tutored completely in Spanish. The goal was to show all the tutors how difficult and uncomfortable it can be to be tutored in a non-native language. Both tutors commented on how nervous and intimidated they were being tutored in a different language.

Another activity allowed the tutors to look at different idioms from around the world and to deduct their meanings. The idea was for the tutors to understand the different cultures as well as the best way to explain the phrases to non-native English speakers.

Jake Butler, a tutor in the Writing Center, commented, "The retreat provided interesting and engaging workshops on how to more effectively tutor international students."

Professor Pelletier's main goal for the retreat this year was for the tutors to understand more about the needs of international students and ESL students. One of the other main goals of the retreat was to prepare the tutors for the biweekly workshops.

The biweekly workshops started on February 11, with their second one on February 25. The workshops are every other week, with the next one on March 11, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

"The biweekly sessions are done through the diversity club. They are really interested in providing writing support for students who are not necessarily international students but are students who have writing difficulties due to ESL. They might come from homes that are predominantly a different language other than English. There are also some international students who are part of the diversity club," said Pelletier.

But while the 'tutor retreat' was based around working with international students, the writing center is a place for everyone. The tutors are embracing working with all types of students within the campus community.

Professor Pelletier says, "In the Writing Center, the mission is to be inclusive. That means to include any writer or student who walks into the writing center no matter their discipline or ability. We want to be prepared to meet the needs of any writer."

Entertainment

Animé Review: Pokémon Origins

By: Elizabeth Thompson

Growing up playing the games, I always wondered why one of the name options was Red and not Ash for your character, and why the rival had the suggested name Blue instead of Gary. It wasn't until the Pokemon Origins miniseries was announced to release in the U.S. on November 15, 2013 that I learned more about the back story.

Pokemon Origins came out in the US November of 2013
Image: Pokedex Radio

Ash and Gary were not the original two. It was in fact Red and Blue who were the stars in the manga; they became translated into Ash and Gary in the television series we all grew up with. I never stopped playing the games, but I had stopped watching the show. The trailer for Pokemon Origins really caught my interest and my curiosity to see how Red's adventures would differ from Ash's, especially after I learned that Pokemon Origins would only be four twenty-five minute episodes.

I thoroughly enjoyed Pokemon Origins over the Pokemon we grew up with as our Saturday morning religion. The content was meant for a mature audience. I noticed this as the voice acting, the story lines, and even the animation was much more mature than the Pokemon I grew up with.

Even when looking at the difference between the two Lavender Town episodes, the content is entirely different. In the original Pokemon series, ghost pokemon hang out at the tower, but in both the game and Pokemon Origins it is essentially a graveyard for pokemon that trainers go to visit and pay respects. The original series writes out the idea that Pokemon can die because it was supposed to be kid friendly. In the miniseries they delve right into it, including the sad tale of Cubone whose mother was killed by Team Rocket and now her ghost haunts the tower, chasing people away for visiting their pokemon who passed away.

Another feature that the miniseries did well was using a lot of the original video game sounds and features to hit home with nostalgia. It made me want to play the older games again. They included all the songs from the different towns, including the eerie song of Lavender Town for when a wild pokemon appears – something I really appreciated. They also start every episode with the new game/continue screen and end every episode with the save screen. They included the opening scene of watching Gengar and Nidorino battle it out followed by the speech Professor Oak gives introducing viewers to pokemon.

I was curious to see how they would deal with covering so much ground in such a short amount of time. Each episode would recap what happened between the last episode and before this episode. That saved a lot of time and covered a lot of ground. Then the rest of the show would focus on a main event such as episode one is where viewers are introduced to the main character, his rival, and the beginning of his journey, including his battle with Brock. Then, just like in the video games, after Red defeats Blue at the Pokemon League, you can't help but feel bad for Blue as his grandfather, Professor Oak, praises you and criticizes him.

There had always been a rumor that Giovanni, head of Team Rocket, was the father of Red since his father had been out of the picture. The miniseries teases us with that possibility, which I found to be very interesting and wished they had delved into more.

The one thing that I really wished for in this series was that it was a full series. I loved everything about it and how differently it was compared to the other series. I also wished that they had done more with Mewtwo as he has always been one of my favorites with a very complex storyline behind him.

I thoroughly enjoyed this miniseries and just wish there was more to watch. It really hit home with the nostalgia and honestly, I wish they had gone this route in the first place instead of with Ash. Yes, Ash's story was more kid friendly, but looking back, I feel that I would have appreciated Red's journey more so. Pokemon did a fantastic job with this miniseries and I look forward to any future projects.

Movie Review: Lego Movie

By: Steph Elizondo

In a fun and interesting combination of animation and live-action, The Lego Movie topped charts in its first few days in theaters, with a $69.1 million weekend debut. It was clear right away that the picture's frequently repeated song "Everything is Awesome" is just telling audiences to prepare for a film that is actually incredibly awesome.

The movie revolves around Emmet, a Lego man who is so average that most people don't even care about him. In a weird, rushed moment one night, he is found by Wyldstyle, and mistaken for one of the "Master Builders," who are the most extraordinary people in existence. Not wanting to admit his mediocre existence, Emmet goes along with her, in attempts to become someone who truly is special, and save the world from the evil Lord Business. As can be expected, Emmet is wildly unprepared for the adventure that awaits him, which results in hilarity that entertains the masses.

The pair, along with a wise, older Master Builder, and, interestingly enough, Batman himself, travel through different Lego Lands, trying to find a method of stopping Lord Business and his plans to set the world the way he wants it, with no possibilities of changing. The plot is fast-paced and exciting, and keeps the audience on the edge of their seats, hoping the best for Emmet and his friends.

The plot within the plot is revealed near the end when Emmet finds himself in the human world, far from where he needs to be to complete his mission and save everyone. This strange turn of events is enough to make audiences gasp, smile, and maybe even shed a tear. It is a film that may look on the surface like a children's movie, but in actuality is something that can be enjoyed by anyone from ages six to one hundred and six. It is much more than a movie about Legos, it is a movie about friendship, love, family, and most importantly, finding your place in the big, bad world. Overall, it is most definitely a movie worth the watch that everyone should go out and see.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you!!

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or find one of our staff. Meeting are every other Thursday @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 126

Entertainment & Features

TV Review: True Detective

By: Robert Gilchrist

There is a lack of good detective shows on TV.

I'm not talking about police procedurals, because those are a dime a dozen. Turn on any channel and you're liable to find some pairing of people solving crimes and trading jaunty banter at each other. But what I'm talking about is something much more subtle. A show that slows down the plot and takes the time to really flesh out our protagonists into full-fledged characters, instead of making them cookie-cutter variants. Luckily for us, we have such a show airing now.

"True Detective," airing on HBO Sundays at nine, has managed to perfect the idea of a detective show into an art form. By taking a step back from the main crime and having the plot focus on the failings of the two main detectives and their struggles over the years makes this something fresh and intriguing.

The main story focuses on our main characters Rust Cohle and Martin Hart, played by Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson respectively, as they investigate the ritualistic murder of a woman in their home state of Louisiana in 1995 and the struggles they face as the case wears on. The side plot of the show then showcases the two detectives in 2012, as they are being interviewed about this case and the methods used in its solving. As the season wears on, it becomes apparent that the wrong man may have been caught, and the past may not be as closed as they thought it once was.

The show practically oozes atmosphere, and it fits the story perfectly. From the opening credits sung in the haunting tones of the Handsome Family to the wide aerial shots of the Louisiana landscape, the show feels unsettling and mysterious. Abandoned farmhouses and isolated swamps help to set the mood for the haunting events that compel the plot forward. The fact that the series was shot using 35 millimeter film adds a rustic and worn feel to the scenes, making the events taking place in the nineties feel that much more real.

But ultimately, the real stars of the show are McConaughey and Harrelson. Their characters are ultimately not meant to fill one such role, but spill out and become more real and fleshed out than any other detective show currently airing. In the hands of any other actors this may have fallen flat on its face, but these two guys help to really sell not only the smarts of these men, but also the fallibility and flaws that are painted on the screen. Neither character is one hundred percent "good" or "damaged," and the actors help to get that nuanced actions across to the audience.

While not an inherent flaw to the show, the only negative in these characters is in how Cohle can sometimes come across as the "brilliant but socially flawed" type of detective. However McConaughey manages to sell the character so much that you might just find yourself understanding where he comes from and seeing things in the jaded, philosophical manner Cohle sees the world. It's worth watching for him alone, as Cohle is forced to travel some dangerous and dark roads that no one but he can perceive.

Another aspect of the show that manages to work in its favor is that "True Detective" is an anthology series, similar to "American Horror Story." By the end of this season, we will get a definitive end to the case of the murdered woman and a final answer to what really happened between Cohle and Hart. So many fine detective shows in the past have suffered from dragging one case over multiple seasons, such as "Twin Peaks" and "The Killing." With this series however, we know there will be closure and a new case (with new detectives and potentially a new cast) to look forward to next year.

If you're like me, you're tired of seeing the same kind of cop shows on TV. Not that they can't be entertaining, but I'm tired of seeing the same kind of case of the week, buddy cop dramas that recycle the same tropes and stereotypes from years and shows past. If you're craving something fresh and dark, then "True Detective" is most definitely something to get on board with.

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

On Monday, February 3, 2014 at approximately 12:03 am, officers responded to the Women's restroom on the second floor of the west side of Windham Hall for a report of an unconscious female student laying in a shower stall. Officers observed a female laying face down in one of the shower stalls when they arrived on scene. The female did not respond to the officers verbal instructions or when tapped on her shoulder. American Medical Response (AMR) was requested. The female then regained consciousness and admitted she had consumed alcohol. AMR transported the female to Mercy Medical Center for further treatment.

On Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at approximately 12:22 am Officers had been dispatched to the classroom portion of LaRiviere Hall, room 101, for the report of an intoxicated male. The individual in question had been discovered by a housekeeper. Upon the officer's arrival and entering the classroom they observed a white male sitting in the far corner of the room with his head down on a table. The officers made several attempts to get his attention with no response. Officers did a further assessment of the male to ensure he was still breathing, to which he had opened his eyes, and the officers observed the male's eyes to be red, glossy and blood shot. The individual was unable to answer questions asked of him coherently. Based on the officers observations of the male they determined he seek further medical attention. American Medical Response (AMR) had been requested and dispatched. While waiting for AMR to arrive on scene officers had been able to obtain the male's blood alcohol content (BAC) using a portable breath test (PBT) machine. The male's BAC had been determined to be .189%.
The male was transported to Mercy Medical Center.

On Sunday, February 16, 2014 at approximately 3:44 am Officer's had been dispatched to 306 Evergreen Village for the evaluation of an intoxicated student. Upon arrival to the apartment officers spoke with the reporting party who stated his roommate was intoxicated and requested a check on his well being. While speaking with the roommate, officers determined that an assault and battery had occurred between the roommate and reporting party prior to their arrival. The roommate was subsequently placed under arrest for MGL 265 s. 13A- Assault and Battery (Domestic.)

On Monday, February 17, 2014 at 10:21 a.m. Western New England University Police received a report of a hit and run motor vehicle accident. Western New England University Alumni reported to police his vehicle had been struck while it was parked in the West Parking Lot sometime between 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 16, 2014. He noticed damage to his front bumper when he returned to his vehicle. The Officer assigned to the report investigated the incident and was unable to determine the cause of the damage.

Reminder, please make sure that your E2 campus account is active. Also, make sure that you have checked the box to receive WNE Weather Alerts regarding cancelations and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSFSR.pdf

Features

Spotlight Corner: Feminists Unite

By: Gennah Borg

Here at Western New England University, we offer our students a large and diverse selection of extra curricular activities to choose from for our students to take part in. We have a club or organization on campus to satisfy everyone's interests!

New to campus this year, we have the Feminists Unite club! The early stages of starting up this new club on Western New England's campus began during the spring semester of 2012. Melina Miseo and Emily Fitzgerald, juniors at the time, as well as 2013 graduate, Christine Rathbun, began the development process of forming the new club by drafting constitutions over their summer vacation and kept in contact with all of the right people here on campus who could further help make the girls' goal, to start a Feminists Unite club on campus, a reality. "With the majority of students on our campus identifying as male, we felt that hosting events that empowered women were important for the university to have," says Emily Fitzgerald, current senior and President of the Feminists Unite club here on campus.

Members of the Feminists Unite club suppaurting the Vagina Manalogues
Image: Emily Fitzgerald

The Feminists Unite club's goal here at Western New England University is to raise the campus' consciousness regarding sexism and gender inequality. This new club seeks to create a safe environment in which dialogue about feminism is encouraged and all members feel comfortable within their body.

"We are dedicated to working towards an end to sexist oppression within our campus community and in the wider world. We hope to break down barriers, which present people of all genders, with obstacles to being fully involved within their schools and other institutions. It is important that this club exists on our campus for students because it offers a unique perspective that other clubs don't provide," said Fitzgerald.

Any Western New England student who has paid the student activities fee may join the Feminists Unite club! This fabulous and powerful new club holds meetings bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. in Campus Center room 7. Don't forget to look for the Feminists Unite's upcoming event, coming in March, when they will be partnering with the National Residence Hall Honorary, NRHH, to help celebrate Women's History Month. Feminists Unite will additionally be hosting an intergenerational feminist tea at the end of March, with students and faculty members invited to discuss feminism.

Interested in starting a club or organization here on campus? You can visit the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development on the second floor of the St. Germain Campus Center for more information!

America Reads

By: Morgan Harthorne

Do you have work-study? Do you like working with kids? Do you want to be part of the highest-paying work study job on campus while making an impact on the surrounding Springfield community? Would you like to build your own work schedule? If you answered yes to any of these questions, America Reads is the program for you!

America Reads is a service program based in local public schools that focuses on increasing the learning of the children enrolled through tutoring and mentorship from students like you and me.

"In Springfield public schools there are typically large class sizes and very limited resources. Our program works to support both the teachers and the students of these schools by placing more people in the classroom to provide more one-on-one and small group attention, despite the lack of resources," said Carter McClintock, the Community Outreach Specialist in the Center for Civic Engagement here on campus.

Right now, Western New England and the Center for Civic Engagement have a group of 40+ students tutoring on 12+ different sites. The program is for the students, run by the students. It boasts two inspiring, responsible student coordinators who are unbelievably dedicated to the program's progress and well-being.

The two student coordinators, Meghan Cobane and Sam Cortes, will be attending a four day conference called Impact in Val Paraiso, Indiana to meet other coordinators from all over the country and share what the program is about.

"At this conference, we're going to be presenting a workshop about how our program works. This conference will give us the chance to see other programs and get feedback about ours as well. It's substantial to prolong and better our program," said coordinator Sam Cortes.

The program is a great opportunity to get involved in the community surrounding Western New England while earning a work-study award.

"The program provides a great learning opportunity and hands-on experience outside of the traditional Western New England classroom. It gives tutors professional experience and helps them grow in a way that they wouldn't necessarily grow in a classroom," said Cortes.

"The program is [also] a great leadership opportunity. It brings our students into the Springfield community and outside of their comfort zone here on campus," added coordinator Meghan Cobane.

The America Reads program not only provides mentorship opportunities, but it also creates a chance for the students from campus to meet with each other every month to connect through their varying experiences.

"Often during our reflection sessions, tutors will come in and say how awesome they feel when they walk into a classroom and see their students get excited to see them," said Cobane.

The program is progressing at an excellent rate and with the help of the student coordinators, it will continue to progress.

"Our goal is to provide students with a great experience, but also to allow children of the community to obtain the presence of role models," said Cortes.

Students interested in applying to the America Reads Program should visit the Center for Civic Engagement on the second floor of the campus center for more information.

Improv on the Rocks

The Western New England Improv troupe will be performing Thursday, March 13 at 8pm in the Rock. Come support the troupe and have some of the best laughs of the semester!!

Opinion

#SochiProblems: They need your help, not your mockery

By: Victoria Katko

There is nothing more frustrating than a person who is proud of their ignorance.

Growing up in a Russian culture, I was always bemused by Russian's fierce national pride. Most of these people grew up in poverty levels unheard of in America, with a government more rotten than rancid meat left in the sun for three weeks, and a culture marred and torn apart by Communism, Marxism, and power hungry dictators who slaughtered their own people mercilessly. Yet repeatedly through history, men and woman willingly laid down their lives for dear Mother Russia. People would tell me of the intense political indoctrination that the students went through in their school years and how a Russian's survival depended on their mastery of the game played around them. Those who refused to compromise, died.

In contrast to popular opinion, Russians aren't delusional. They're survivors. They don't trust their government, their eyes are wide open to their circumstances. They live in poverty, they scrape together a living, and manage to raise families in the midst of it all.

During the recent #SochiProblems fiasco in the Olympics, America reminded me of Dudley Dursley picking on Harry Potter. A fat, spoiled brat picking on a boy that had no way of fighting back because his livelihood depends on the very powers that are destroying him.

What happened to America, the white knight? The nation that lauds itself on its staunch stance as deliverer of nations, giver of democracy and freedom? The Cold War is over. But the hearts of the American people are colder than any Siberian coast you can find. Russia is still an enemy.

Do Americans have any sympathy for a people who are broken? A people being devoured by their own government? Yes, a fiercely proud people but proud because everything else has been stripped away from them? Can America see past double toilet seats, unfinished hotel rooms, and uncovered manholes to the painful reality that Russians live in?

Success in business depends on your ties to the government. Schooling is biased, with teachers ordered to fail entire classes on the whim of a city officiate (this happened to my mother.) Religious freedom is unheard of, the concept of fair is incomprehensible. Americans debate a gender wage gap while Russians wonder about a wage at all. Americans don't even have second thoughts about the water they drink while Russians deal with "pee water" daily.

But walk into the home of a Russian. They may not have much, but everything they have - they will offer you. Watch their families. How the parents sacrifice everything for their children. How the children care for their parents. Watch them drink tea for hours and talk, argue, and laugh despite the dismal circumstances they live in.

I used to be ashamed of Russians. Because of their pride. Because of their senseless, stupid pride. But I didn't understand them before - I did not know their history, their story. I just didn't know. And I was hard-pressed to find out because you will find few willing to tell all about what goes on.

But now I am more ashamed of America, the country I love. Because I know its rich roots, the strong foundations, its story. I know the bounty, the riches, the beauty of this country. This American reality TV-show mentality makes me want to cry – the idea that the tragedies and problems of people are entertainment for you. The world is watching America. And they will not forget that you laughed when they fell. Be careful. While one has fallen, the ears do burn in humiliation but the lips stay silent. But when one rises, retribution and vengeance follow.

The first slew of #SochiProblems did make me laugh, but as the list grew, it was sobering. Because what was a few week experience for the journalists, is a day-to-day reality for the majority of Russians. This fact seems to elude most people.

So instead of laughing at Russia, why not help Russia? Pray for Russia? Work for change in Russia? And in the meanwhile, politics aside, it's time for America to see the rest of the world as human and rediscover its own humanity

Qualms & Quarrels: Advice Column

Q: I'm meeting my boyfriend, of almost a year's, parents for the first time over spring break. I'm really nervous and I honestly don't know what to do or say. Can you help me?
-Little Lover Girl

A: Little Lover Girl, I understand your dilemma. It was not too long ago that I had to meet my significant other's parents and I don't know if I have ever felt that awkward in my entire life. It's not easy, especially not the first time. It has to happen eventually though. First rule of thumb: Try to make the best of it.

Aside from that, think about the situation you're going to be in. Are you going to a fancy restaurant? Heavily consider dressing up if this is the case, it will leave a great first impression on them. Are you having a sit-down dinner at their home? Offer to help prepare the meal or set the table! Chances are they will turn you down, being that you are a guest, but I am positive they will appreciate your politeness. Maybe you are having a family game night! Dress comfortably but conservatively and allow your significant other's parents or family to choose what you play. They will enjoy that you're not trying to take charge.

In any case, remember to really just be yourself...They're not going to want to meet a girl different from the girl their son is actually dating. I'm not saying belch the alphabet at the dinner table if that's your thing when you are alone, I simply mean, you should be willing to discuss your favorite shows and foods, what your major or job is and maybe even your opinion on politics if you are so bold as to go there in conversation. There is nothing you need to be ashamed of. If you have been with your boyfriend for this long, almost a year, his parents will probably just be really excited to finally meet you, being that you clearly mean a lot to their son.

Do not be nervous. It will most likely show and the family will try to make you feel better, but it will likely just make everything more awkward while everyone's trying not to be awkward. Act natural and let the conversation come to you as the night goes on. I'm sure you will be just fine, and they will absolutely adore you! Good luck!

Interested in sports?
Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears?
Have a knack for journalism or writing in general?
The Westerner would love to have you!
We are looking for any students who have an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write one WNE sports related article per issue.
If you are interested, join us at one of our meetings held every other Thursday at 8:00p.m. in rivers 126.

Opinion

Traditional Dating: is it still possible?

By: Stefani Feole

Traditional dating… Does it still exist in the college world? While I'm sure many people would say that it no longer does exist in college, I would beg to differ. I understand the frustration with dating, I really do. In college, dating is especially hard. Most people view these four, or more, years as a time to experiment with whatever and maybe whomever they want! On the contrary, there are others who keep themselves reserved for something more than a one week fling with their neighbor.

I'll admit, "Traditional Dating" is a strange concept in our modern day society. People tend to rush themselves into relationships with others without even getting to know the other person. I know that many of you who are reading this right now will ask "Yeah, but what's wrong with that? We are in college, after all." My answer to this question is that there is a lot wrong with this particular view on dating in college.

First, I think that since college students have limited time as it is, they often choose to associate with the people that they spend their time with as opposed to branching out. It's silly to not develop actual relationships with people just because we've been nurtured into believing that college is a time to "experiment." I say throw that predisposition away and do what makes you happy! If switching partners every other week is what makes you truly happy, which I'm sure it does not, then who am I to tell you not to? I'm just here to encourage you that traditional dating and getting to know somebody first is a whole lot more effective use of your time.

Let's say you take my opinion into account and want to start formally dating someone. Get a little traditional! Courting is not a dead and buried concept! It's nice to have someone open the door for you, to be appreciated for the small stuff and to have a mutual understanding of what both people in the dating relationship want. Dating and taking things slowly is not a bad thing! It's much more rewarding and makes parents a heck of a lot more proud than the other route of "dating." If anything, don't do this for yourselves, do it for your parents! I'm only kidding! Do it for you because it's much more rewarding that way.

Contrary to popular belief, traditional dating does not necessarily have to mean being in a relationship. Nonetheless, it does mean that each one of you should take your time getting to know somebody and enjoying it! Get to know what makes the other person tick, what their favorite color is, what their favorite food is, etc. Good conversation is something that we all want and it's what makes us attracted to other people. Without being able to maintain a good conversation, you can't maintain a relationship never mind a dating relationship.

Take your time, but most importantly, enjoy that time! Do everything that you possibly can to impress the other person and enjoy having somebody else impress you. Not everything in this world needs to be rushed. Always remember, courting and being courted still exists, you just have to know that! If the right person comes along, anything is possible!

Battle of the sexes

Q: My girlfriend's on her period. What do I do?

Alright, so here's how to survive the worst time of the month. For both of us. Periods, or as the British say, bloody hell, are a very dangerous time. Your lady is in a lot of discomfort, so the best thing you can do is try to be as patient as you can. Remember, being nice to your lady friend is always a nice thing to do, but in this situation it may just save your life.

We all know that some ladies can be…how can I put this… harpies, when this particular time rolls around. While your first reaction may be to defend yourself from the storm coming your way, sometimes the best thing to do is to just escape to the nearest bar, if you are of age, or to a friend's house. As said previously, the best option is usually to try to reason with her, but at this time of the month she is at times immune to any reasoning. If that is the case, your best bet is to escape to a safe distance, typically 5 to 10 miles depending on the severity of the symptoms, and wait out the hurricane.

There are three things you must be sure that your woman is provided with in the event of a flash flood. The first thing is a liberal dose of chocolate or her personal choice of fattening snacks. Although it is usually not recommended to provide anyone with such items, drastic times call for drastic measures. This may be what allows you to survive your next red scare. The next vital piece of ammunition against your woman's scarlet tsunami is a connection to Netflix. This will keep her out of your hair and you off her emotional rollercoaster. Let her Notebook her sadness away in solitude.

Finally, every man must be equipped with a monumental amount of a little thing called patience. Your girlfriend will push every one of your buttons and test each of your nerves. But as they say, when emergency strikes, remain calm and keep your head above water.

Mother Nature sure gave girls the short end of the biological stick. Sure, our boyfriends have to be around for Hell Week, but it's us girls that have to actually endure it. Whoever created the notion that guys are tougher than girls sure didn't have to suffer the stabbing, searing, gut-wrenching pain of cramps. I wouldn't wish that pain on my worst enemy. But, I won't get into the gory details of female problems. The fact of the matter is that if you're in a relationship, you and your man need to get through this week as a couple. How Dr. Phil of me, eh?

Guys obviously want to stay as far away as possible from their girlfriends during this special time. Apparently it's equivalent to contracting the Bubonic Plague. But heed my warning guys: girls will be nothing but offended if you head for the hills during this time of need. You're supposed to be men so man-up and dig-in for the long haul. I'm not saying you have to hold your girl's hand every second of every day, but don't sporadically come up with these lame, urgent, excuses that are far from plausible. Instead, with the right tools, you can be the handyman your girl fantasizes about during this time.

As the guy side has stated, chocolate is essential during this time. A girl would snatch the Golden Ticket to Willy Wonka's factory from Charlie's poor little hand during this time if she could. While other snacks full of sodium and sugars are also appealing, don't buy out the snack isle of Stop & Shop. Your girl is incredibly sensitive about her image during this time so it's best to not threaten her self-image. To go along with this whole body-image crisis, it would be wise to hide all of the scales in the house as well. Maybe even break them, if need be. Those suckers will do nothing but crush a girl's confidence. And finally, just be as understanding as testosterone will allow you to be. Period.

Sports

The Winter Olympics: fighting for gold

By: Michael Masciadrelli

Oshie scores on Russia during penalty shootout
Image: Gary Hershorn of Reuters

Starting Thursday February 6th, sports fans around the world had been on the edge of their seats as the Winter Olympics went underway. 88 countries sent over their star athletes to Sochi, Russia in winter sports competition to battle in 14 different sports. This year's international event marked the 22nd Winter Olympics in history. From hockey to curling, various sports were in action on NBC's broadcasting network.

The United States entered as the top dogs of the last Winter Olympics in Vancouver four years ago, achieving 37 medals, 20 of them being gold. USA looked to uphold their dominance in the winter sports competition against the rest of the world. They have continued their winning ways by earning 28 total medals. 230 U.S. athletes qualified to compete, five ahead of host country Russia.

Russia leads the pack with most Gold Medals and most medals overall at 13 gold and 33 total medals. Norway follows in second with 11 gold, while Canada received 10 gold and the United States follow with nine gold medals respectively. The United States may be behind in Gold medals, but for overall, they received the second highest amount of medals, following Russia.

Of the fourteen sports being played, some of them involved an unusual playing style. In curling, four members on each team use sweeping motions to guide a heavy stone to a circular target area on ice. The sport originates from Scotland where it was first played in the 16th century. The object is to get the 20 kg stone in the center of the area while keeping the opponent's stone away from it. Team Canada wrapped up the gold medal in both the women's and men's side, defeating Sweden each time for the Gold.

In this Olympics, luge proved to be an exciting sport to watch as athletes look to gain high speeds in a sled, barreling down a slope to the finish the line. It can be reciprocal to a giant water slide, only this uses frozen paths with the atmosphere being much colder. This has been the sport Germany excelled at, achieving four gold medals. It's considered to be the most dangerous sport at the Olympics.

The home country has benefited the most from figure skating where they received five medals, three of them being gold. Whether it's individual or with a partner, skaters must perform with elegance, grace, and balance on the ice to impress the judges. Any small slip or poor landing after a jump may cost a country a medal. U.S. figure skater, Meryl Davis, has brought home a gold medal and bronze medal. USA led in snowboarding, taking 3 gold medals, but it was Canada who brought home the most medals with 9 medals.

Women's hockey provided some of the most thrilling and emotional moments in this year's Olympics. USA battled team Canada in the gold medal game Thursday afternoon. After leading 2-0 with three minutes remaining in the third period, Canada fought back and scored two goals to tie it. Their second goal came with 56 seconds remaining. In overtime, Canada found the back of the net on a 5-on-3 power play to win in dramatic fashion. Despite the gut-wrenching defeat to the arch rival, the USA women have no reason to be ashamed of their performance as they fought to the bitter end.

On the men's side, USA lived up to expectations going undefeated in the group stage. Russia was the only country to push the United States squad to its limit in the early stages of competition. Early on in the second period, it was the Russians who took first blood. Detroit Red Wings forward, Pavel Datsyuk split two defenders in the middle of the ice and pushed the puck past USA goalie, Jonathan Quick for the first goal of the game. Several minutes later, USA converted on a power play after Cam Fowler jammed home a deflection in front of the net, making it 1-1. At 10:33 in the third period, USA winger Patrick Kane found Joe Pavelski open on the left side of the ice to blast in a one timer, putting USA up 2-1. However, Pavel Datsyuk scored again for Russia minutes later on a power play. The game was then pushed into overtime, or "sudden death."

Even after 20 minutes of overtime, neither team were able to create another scoring opportunity. This left the matter of winning and losing to a penalty shootout where both sides take turns going 1-on-1 against the opponent's goalie. After scoring back and forth seven times, goalie Jonathan Quick made a key stop providing an opportunity for the USA to win it. T.J. Oshie who already had scored three times in the shootout wouldn't let this golden opportunity pass him by. Making it look easy, Oshie found the back of the net claiming victory for the U.S.

USA men's hockey hasn't won gold since 1980 where they too upset Russia on route to gold. Unfortunately for them, they had to play Canada in the semifinals. Canadian goalie, Kerry Price shutout the U.S. as they ended up falling 1-0. Though the 2014 Winter Olympics have come to a close, there is no doubt that this year's Olympics will be remembered in sports history.

Tickets for Senior Formal on Sale Now!!!!

This year's Senior Formal is to be held at Chez Josef in Agawam, MA, on April 11. Tickets are $75, due by March 7. Seniors, make sure you bring a special someone to enjoy this memorable evening with you. Guests do not need to be from the school. The bus departs from campus for Chez Josef at 5:00pm. Tickets can be purchases at University Tickets (wneu.universitytickets.com)

WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE IT, THANK YOU!

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The Westerner

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Student Senate Develops Campus-Wide Texting System

By: Sarah Wiles

Public Safety and Student Senate are working on a new texting service for students
Image: Kaylene Hersey

Over the course of the semester, in response to a growing concern about a lack of awareness on campus with regards to upcoming events, Student Senate has been working on implementing a text message system, which would update students on a weekly basis with that week's list of events. Sophomore Representative, Zane Zglobicki, who attended the National Association for Campus Activities Conference in October where he got the idea, is heading the project. The goal is to get information about upcoming events in a given week to as many students as possible, in as efficient of a way as possible.

Zglobicki has been partnering with Chief Woodrow and the Department of Public Safety on using E2Campus, the system that currently sends out alerts on the University closing and other emergency messages. It is possible to set up opt-in groups for students, so that all they need to do is login to E2Campus on Connect2U and check a box stating to include him or her in the

Continued on page 2

Students Respond to Snow Removal

By: Sarah Wiles

WNE has been working to try to keep the campus as clear of snow as possible
Image: Kaylene Hersey

With the number of severe snow storms Springfield has seen this semester, students are concerned about the process of snow removal that takes place on campus.

Senior Spencer Ives stated, "It all seemed a little disorganized. I was told to move my car, but with little idea of where, and then they said to have it moved back when they finished, without clarifying exactly when that would be. So it was a mild inconvenience to keep having to restructure my time in order to check on their progress. I think it might have been done better."

Junior Kaylene Hersey said, "I completely understand why students have been so upset about the snow removal system, but I don't think blaming the maintenance crew will do any good. We have had a lot of snow this winter - more than usual - and it came within a two-three week period. There were times when maintenance were supposed to come clear out Gateway, where I live, but they couldn't because we had another snow storm. It wasn't so much their fault as it was the weather. We all just were not prepared for this intense of a winter."

Various offices were also seeing the impact on different students. For example, students with disabilities that challenge their ability to navigate safely in severe conditions were contacting the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Student Disability Services for additional assistance while waiting for the snow to be moved.

News & Entertainment

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Texting continued from first page

group.

"Once a week, a text will be sent out to everyone who opted in, telling them to check their e-mail for a new schedule of events happening that week. After the system is implemented, the student body will be aware of what is going on around campus, and most likely attend more events," Zglobicki says.

Campus Relations Chairperson Matthew Amaral stated, "Zane has been the key component of the project. He has been the point-person for relaying this information to Student Senate, as well as having the necessary meetings with the select individuals on campus, such as Chief Woodrow, who are assisting him on the project. Working with Zane on this experience, I have seen him develop as a leader, and also was able to see his passion of trying to provide information to the rest of his fellow students about what is happening on campus. My role in the project has been to assist Zane in his leadership of the project, as well as to further come up with the best idea to relay the information to students so that the campus wide text would not be considered a waste."

Zglobicki went on to say, "The idea formed when I was trying to figure out how to get commuters more involved on campus. The only thing I could think of that almost every commuter had was a cell phone, so texting them with a schedule seemed like the best option. Then it occurred to me that this system would benefit the entire campus, so I brought it to Senate for discussion."

Zglobicki explained, "The first part of the ordeal was finding a company that we could use for a group text on such a massive scale. Luckily, the school's e2campus texting alert system allows for such texts, which means we didn't have to spend a dime to get this system up and running. The next step was to make a test group to see if it would actually be possible for a student to be the administrator, and to troubleshoot any other problems that may arise. The test group so far has been successful, and is almost ready for use. The current challenge that Senate is facing right now is exactly how the message will be formatted, and what events are going to be on the text, not to mention who will be in control of the system after it is implemented and how they find their information. We're making steady progress every day, and that's all I could ever ask for."

Amaral added, "We are attempting to make it easier for our students to access information about what is happening on campus. Being in a generation of technological advancement, Senate is attempting to provide this information to students in a beneficial way. The hope with the campus text will be to allow for more students to attend events, as well as increase the amount of organizations that will use this as a resource for publicity and more."

For any questions or comments about this system, contact Zane Zglobicki at zane.zglobicki@wne.edu, or any Student Senator.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you!!

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or email one of our staff. Meeting are every other Thursday. Our next meeting is **March 27st @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 126**

The Music Program Presents:

The Spring Showcase

On April 6 at 3 p.m. in Sleith 100

Come support and enjoy the Band and Choir!!

The Music Program along with Spiritual life is hosting "Late Night: The Arts & You Celebration"

On Saturday March 29th at the Rock from 11 pm-1 am

Come Enjoy Open Mic Performances, Karaoke & Craft Activities!!! There will also be refreshments available!

Record Review: Physical Graffiti

By: Frank Maturo

Stuff your face with "Custard Pie" and like it! Physical Graffiti IS the Led Zeppelin that you need in your album arsenal. Physical Graffiti, released in 1975, paints the picture of how Led Zeppelin did it better than all the rest. The lead track initiates head bobbing, while your mouth waters for a slice of Zeppelin's "Custard Pie." "The Rover," track 2, keeps the blood boiling hot with words of wisdom as to whether or not the life we live is truly worth living. Robert belts, "If we could just join hands..." as Page rolls the backing rhythm that wraps you around Zeppelin's mighty finger. 10 minutes in, and you've found a new you who's got the guts you wish you had back in middle school...I wonder if Molly Conway is still single?

Physical Graffiti's track list spans five years of work with songs such as "Bron-Yr-Aur," conceived in July of 1970, and "Kashmir," pieced together in '74. The Physical Graffiti "adventure," if you will, sheds light on Led Zeppelin's versatility. It opens hard, stays hard, then slows down with "In The Light," and stays smooth until "Night Flight" turns your burner to 9, then blows your top with "Sick Again." Get in your car, turn the key, and pop in Physical Graffiti. Once you hear the first chord off of Page's Gibson Les Paul, push the gas, and don't stop until there's no more Led for listening.

Men, picture this: It's 7:45pm. You told your girlfriend you'd pick her up at 8. You just finished straining your neck to "Kashmir" and have 40 minutes left of Zeppelin's best. Do yourself a favor...call up your lady and let her know you're pulling in late tonight. You've got a prior engagement with rock n' roll and her name is Physical Graffiti.

Entertainment

Movie Review: Winter's Tale

By: Elizabeth Thompson

Winter's Tale stars Colin Forrell & Jessica Brown
Image: www.upcoming-movies.com

So I should first mention that I have never read the book, Winter's Tale, so I wouldn't use the movie to judge the novel. I guess there is no other way to begin the review than stating outright I did not care for this movie at all. I found myself not rooting for the hero, Peter Lake played by Colin Farrell, but rather for the villainess demon, Pearly Soames played by Russell Crow. I guess rooting is the wrong word, more like I was far more interested in Pearly's story than I was in Peter Lakes.

The movie, to sum it up as best as I can, is mainly about miracles. Humans, when they love someone entirely, can cast a miracle for the person they love. In this case, when Peter Lake's love interest, Beverly Penn played by Jessica Brown Findlay, dies, she gives him a miracle - to survive his murder from Pearly. Beverly was destined to die from the start of the movie as she suffered from a terrible fever for most of her life, one that killed many, and forced her to sleep outside during winter just to keep her temperature down enough.

After Beverly dies, Peter is trapped by a group of Pearly's men and Pearly himself on a bridge. Pearly bashes his head in and throws him over the bridge, but because of Beverly's miracle, he survives and manages to land in the future, the year 2014, but with no memory. Pearly finds out about this and doesn't understand how it is possible because, as he says in the movie "He is neither angel nor demon. How is he still alive?" So along with humans possessing the ability to give miracles, there are angels and demons among them.

I have absolutely no idea what the role of an angel is in this movie. They seemed to have been thrown in their for convenience. Demons, however, play a major role. You even get to meet Lucifer played by Will Smith. To be honest, I was far more interested with Pearly's story, wanting to know how he became a demon. Probably one of my favorite parts in the movie is when Pearly is on his black horse walking towards Peter Lake who is on a white horse, forcing him to back up onto the bridge and he says "I've been blackening souls and crushing miracles for longer than I can remember." I loved that line and wanted more like it.

Then, we have a huge time gap error. The first hour and a half takes place in 1915 and the last half hour in 2014. Now because of his time traveling, Peter never aged, but Willa, Beverly's younger sister, who was about eight at the start of the movie, does make an appearance in the future. At approximately one hundred and seven years old, she is running a newspaper and looks in her sixties. I'm pretty sure that that is highly improbable.

Going off that, my other problem was how much time they spent in 1915. The movie was only two hours long and yet the first hour and a half was dedicated to 1915 and his relationship with Beverly. When they finally made their way to present day there was only half an hour left so they rushed the ending. There was so much going on and all the events were just getting thrown at you one after another.

After watching the movie, I came to the conclusion that Russell Crow's portrayal of Pearly was the only thing that made the movie even the least bit interesting and worth seeing. If anything, see the movie for his character. Many people believe the Crow's acting career should have been over a long while ago, but after seeing his performance as Pearly, I feel as though any other actor would have been unable to portray him as well.

Book Review: Lust, and Other Stories

By: Spencer Ives

Books, music, literature, movies, it's all the same in one respect; people should stop trying to look for a sure thing. There are no guarantees.

Reading a dozen reviews before seeing a movie is unnecessary; it's gratuitous, and ultimately, I think, it poisons the pool of one's own thoughts and opinion. Whether the reviews are good or bad, anyone's impression is then based off of that proverbial root, whether it is better or worse than they expected. I miss the idea of going out on a limb and trying something blind. That is what I attempted with Lust and Other Stories by Susan Minot.

In my freshman year, I had read "Lust" as a part of my second English course. I enjoyed it those three years ago. Now, I happened to find this collection in a used bookstore. Without reading reviews on Amazon, checking the average stars on Goodreads, or polling any of a litany of literature-centered forums, I bought it.

And for the most part I liked it. It was a nice book to pass time with, pick up every now and then and leaf through. The style was unique and interesting. Each story presented a unique perspective on sex or the dating world. Though, I had my flaws with it. The author seemed to really focus around a couple recurrent viewpoints of interpersonal relationships, specifically, a growing sense of dissociation and depersonalization between the characters in each story. This was a drawback as well as an exemplary point. It focused almost entirely on negative views of relationships, but in a rather comprehensive way. It balanced between being tedious and being thorough with its subject matter.

Overall, it was interesting and I'm glad I got it. Even more than for having read it, I'm pleased with the sense of satisfaction stemming from having gone out on a limb, not been thrilled, and been accepting. It happens. It was enjoyable, even if only by the token that it was an adventure outside of the thicket of recommendations.

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WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE

Entertainment & Features

TV Review: Hannibal Season 2

By: Robert Gilchrist

NBC has a bad rap of being too "safe" a network. After all, the most popular shows are on cable networks like AMC, FX, and HBO. NBC has to deal with being a bit more family friendly with some of their subject matter, and that leads to the network getting a bad rap. But honestly, one of the bloodiest and most intense shows currently airing on television is on NBC. It's so good, you might even say it's "deliciously good."

NBC's "Hannibal" premiered last year to rave reviews from critics across the board. Portraying the tales of Special Agent Will Graham and Doctor Hannibal Lector before the latter is revealed as a cannibalistic murderer, the show serves to help flesh out the character of Graham who only saw action in one of Thomas Harris' Lector novels, as well as acting as a retelling of one of literature's greatest villains' tales.

With season one ending with a reversal of roles (Graham in a mental institution and Lector on the outside,) things seemed dire for our characters. Right from the opening scene of the premier, "Hannibal" proves it won't be going in for a sophomore slump. An intense and brutal fight between two of the show's characters serves to get the action rolling, and while the viewer may have a certain mindset throughout this bloody scene, three words at the very end of it prove to blow your mind and set the show on a predetermined path.

The cast of characters is wide and dynamic in this show, and each one of them gets a moment in the premier. It would have been the safe bet to simply focus on Graham being trapped in the mental hospital, plotting on how to get out and prove Lector's guilt, but instead the plot revolves around many of the character's reacting to the new development. Graham shows up several times (expertly played by Hugh Dancy,) and one particular scene with Lector and Graham meeting to discuss things is one of the highlights of the episode. But the secondary characters manage to work their way in, never letting the plot get too stagnant or worn down.

Perhaps the only aspect of the show that is better than the acting is the cinematography. Certain scenes are slowed down and played like they are taking place in a vacuum, with only the haunting music giving any sound to the events that transpire. Whether it be Lector preparing dinner for one of his guests or Jack Crawford walking to a crime scene, these scenes manage to stand out and really help to make the viewer ponder the events that have happened. A lesser show would blow right through these scenes, leaving the viewer to play catch up. But here, the viewer can feel the tension building as the characters do (and trust me, there's tension to spare.)

But when it boils down to it, this is just another crime show. Or is it? In the premier, the characters are introduced to another grisly murderer (whose actions are so twisted it'll make your skin cringe,) yet the plot of who is the murderer isn't resolved. Its left hanging, dangling like a delicious piece of fruit just out of reach. It says something about the power of a show that it can leave such a big plot thread dangling and still be an amazing episode. Perhaps the show runners are looking to have a more overarching villain instead of a "case of the week" type baddie that populated most of last season. Only time will tell.

The next time you hear someone bashing on NBC, don't hop on the bandwagon. Point them in the direction of "Hannibal," and let them see for themselves what's what. With phenomenal cinematography and a cast that embodies the characters perfectly, "Hannibal" serves to showcase that not all shows on network television are "family friendly." Who knows, maybe you'll like it so much, you'll go back for seconds (with a side of fava beans, and a nice chianti.)

Improv on the Rocks Attends ImprovBoston

By: Kaylene Hersey

Improv on the Rocks, for the past four years, has attended ImprovBoston in hopes to improve their skills as improvisers and to bond more as a team.

"Every single year we learn a lot more to bring back to the troupe and we really want people to laugh and we are funnier when we know more," said senior Matt Johnston, the Vice President of Improv on the Rocks.

ImprovBoston holds a festival every year called the College Comedy Festival and the Beanpot Tournament. It is a festival that college improv troupes can attend to learn from many professional improvisers. This year, the festival was February 20-22.

"It is a great place to learn and a great place to meet people and network with other troupes because that can give us connections for other shows like we did with WPI," said the Scribe of the Improv Troupe, junior Drew Gowen.

This was the Improv Troupe's fourth time attending the festival and third time attending as a whole team.

"Last year, we had to leave early due to a snow storm, so this year we got to stay to experience everything in full," said sophomore Kyle Homberg.

"I had a teacher who hadn't been there before and she actually does professional improv in Los Angeles and it was incredible working with someone with her experience," said Johnston about the differences compared to last year's festival.

This year, the structure changed in a few different ways, many which the improvisers felt improved the festival.

"I think in my opinion it was better. Last year, we had line games with puns and they told us to send up two people and then they told us what pun game we were going to do and it was very nerve racking. This year, they had us come up as a team, told us what we were going to do, so we were able to send up whoever was strongest with the given game," said Homberg.

"I liked the format. I wouldn't say I liked it more or less but with the differences in the line form, it really was that you got to see the best people at the game play the game whereas last year, it was whoever was there," said Johnston.

"I wasn't there last year, but this year felt like everyone was working together, trying to make everyone laugh instead of you versus another person. It just seemed like a big show," said Freshman Zachary Ledwell.

Not only to Ledwell but to the other freshmen and newcomers to the Festival found that it definitely went beyond expectations.

"When I first got there I thought everyone was going to be very competitive but actually, everyone was very friendly and you got to meet new people. It was like a big group of friends," said freshman, Kyle Fitzgerald.

"I think my favorite moment was when I went up and we did World's Worse. Each ding was a point and I got two dings. When I went up, I was shaking and then I did it. I heard the two dings and I was shaking even more but this time because I was so happy," said Ledwell

The main thing that the Improv Troupe was able to work on was Long Form. The troupe is known on campus for their short form shows, which consist of games and small scenes. Long form on the other hand is longer scenes where the troupe using groupmind to create scenes that generally focus on some type of theme.

"If we get good at doing long form, we hope to perform it. But it is not something we can just pull out and throw it together just like that. Games are very short and are fairly easy to learn because we know other games, but long form is entirely different, so we want to be able to do it well before we do it in front of an audience," said Johnston when asked if students would be seeing Long Form in future shows.

The other hope for the improv troupe is to collaborate with other troupes. Through the Festival, they were able to connect with troupes from WPI, Westfield State, Gordon College, and Clark University.

When asked on why they always return and why they plan to return next year, Freshman Dominick DeCarlo said, "Because you can always become a better improviser. You are never the best."

Improv on the Rocks!!

Show tonight March 13 in the Rock Cafe at 8 pm!!!

If you miss the show, don't worry the next one is right around the corner.

The next show is April 12 at 7 pm in the Rock!!

Features

Spotlight Corner: WARP

By: Gennah Borg

Members of the WARP club
Image: Ray Sciarretta

Here at Western New England University, we pride ourselves on having a club or organization on campus to satisfy everyone's interests! Don't believe me? Well you have come to the right place! Western New England has a drama department, a music program, our own student run senate, a student run and edited newspaper, an athletics department and many more extra-curricular activities that are guaranteed to catch at least one of your interests! WNE, however, is comprised of much more than the popular arts and athletics departments. Here on campus we have our very own role playing club called WARP, which stands for the Western New England Association of Role Playing club.

Known as the "gaming club" here on campus, WARP is one of WNE's growing clubs. Originally having specialized in solely card games, current executive club board members, Christopher Jordan, Christopher Gleason, and Christopher Brand have transformed themselves into a more involved and talked about club among the campus community.

WARP is for students who enjoy playing card games, computer games, and board games. WARP encompasses specific games including the ever famous Dungeons and Dragons, Magic the Gathering, and Settlers of Catan. Each week at club meetings, there are Magic the Gathering and Cardfight!! Vanguard tournaments where members are encouraged to come trade cards, watch games, and even learn how to play games! Board games are picked each week to play as well. Games from Settlers of Catan, Power Grid, Fluxx, Munchkin, and Descent: The Journeys into Darkness are the popular games that members take part in here on campus.

Interested in creating your own destiny within the gaming world? WARP members enjoy playing Dungeons and Dragons, which very well might be the game for you! Playing Dungeons and Dragons, players have the ability to create a character and go on an adventure within the world of the Dungeon Master's choosing. With the help of your imagination, you as the Dungeon Master have the power to choose how your story will turn out. Do you prefer playing computer games? WARP can still help you out! To connect with each other in the online virtual gamming world, members can find other interested members on the WARP's Kodiak classroom whom they can connect with.

"WARP brings a safe outlet to students where they can unwind in the gaming world," stated Vice President, Christopher Gleason. "WARP allows students from behind the screen, board, or cards to come together in a safe and entertaining in-person environment."

WARP also provides students the opportunity to interact with others who are not traditionally from inside their social group, allowing for our students to widen their realm of friendships. "You meet people whom you might not have never known prior to joining," said Christopher Jordan, President of WARP.

How can you help out this fast growing club on campus? "We hold fundraisers!" said WARP's Treasurer, Christopher Brand. In fact, WARP holds fundraisers and drafts in order to purchase pre releases of new and not yet released cards for varying games to play on campus. Through the help of a card shop in Enfield, Connecticut owned by a club member's friend, Matt's Sports Cards and Comics greatly helps with supplies and materials.

"We are kind of deemed to be unsocial around campus," said Jordan. However, WARP members would like our campus community to know this is far from the truth! WARP is a welcoming group of students and they would like to cordially invite each of you to attend Nerd Day 2014, the club's first major event here on campus!

Nerd Day this year will be held on Wednesday, April 30, in Rivers Memorial Hall from 4:00pm to 10:00pm. This event will feature various gaming tournaments such as Mario Cart and Super Smash Brothers to Cardfight!! Vanguard and Magic the Gathering. WARP will also be giving away awesome prizes to tournament winners and selling decks of cards to students. They will also be teaching students how to play various card games, so have no fear if you are new to the gaming world!

Interested in joining WARP? This interactive club meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 in the Freedman Room on the second floor of the St. Germain Campus Center. Why not come out and join this great club! After all, "You can not play a card game alone!" said Jordan. For more information regarding WARP, you can contact executive club board members at christopher.jordan@wne.edu, christopher.gleason@wne.edu, or christopher.brand@wne.edu.

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You are joyfully invited to attend a Holistic Health Forum.
Steve Steinberg will speak at Better Life Whole Foods on Saturday, March 15 at 1:00 p.m.
This program is free and open to students.

Holistic Health Forum: A discussion of the current state of the most important aspects of our health, our food as medicine, air, and water. "Greening" or shifting our conscious will improve the wellbeing of people as well as the earth.

Preventative medicine is on the cutting edge of case management today. As the cornerstone of health care it focuses on preventing an illness from occurring rather than treating it after the fact. The road to change begins with informing yourself so you can choose the right path for you! Ultimately this may prove to be one of the greatest scientific adventures of all that will lead to a longer and happier life. We can all play a role in this move towards preventative medicine and become healthier in our journey!

A black leather computer chair will be raffled
Register online at www.betterlifewholefoods.com
Or call (413) 783-9424 ex.2

Features

Twitch Plays Pokémon: A Subculture

By: Spencer Ives

Around the campus, phrases have cropped up in the last few weeks, some seemingly religious or political comments suddenly thrown into popular use, like 'praise helix,' 'thank you, Bird Jesus,' 'quell the uprising, vote anarchy,' 'join the resistance, vote democracy.' In a matter of a week, an online project had created a set of political factions, voting between anarchy and democracy within a forum as well as the creation of a fictional theology. In just a few days it spawned a microcosm of a society. Yet, it started with a seemingly simple premise: can over 70,000 people, controlling the same video game at the same time, act in accordance with each other to eventually accomplish one amazingly complex task?

The game chosen was a copy of Pokémon Red, originally formatted for the Gameboy, adapted to be controlled through a computer, by anyone who would care to log on to a specific website. Users see a live feed of the game, and can enter button controls through the chat log, as well as messages to others following the campaign. Within the game, there is a mechanic offered; people can vote for either 'democracy' or 'anarchy.' If there are enough votes for democracy, then the game will hold a vote of which action should be taken next, instituted at about every 10 seconds. If the vote is overtaken by anarchy, any button input is immediately executed. Thus, a division is created between those opting for progress by democracy over happenstance.

In a state of anarchy, patterns are randomly presented. One such pattern was the possibly accidental opening of the item menu at unsuited or inappropriate times. One specific item, known as the 'Helix Fossil' was selected time and time again. In a time of anarchy, the Helix was incidentally referenced, creating the idea that the Helix should be consulted in any time of doubt. In the strange and inexplicable way that meme-cultures are born, the theology of the Helix was created.

Also in the randomness of the environment, one character, or Pokémon, ended up being brought out as a tour-de-force, raising its level much higher than any other. Being subsequently over-leveled, this bird-like Pokémon became incredibly powerful, being able to come through when any other couldn't. As a result, this 'Bird Jesus' became the prophet of the Helix deity, representing the power of anarchy.

It started as an interesting sociological experiment, testing whether enough people would act for greater good in an environment where no individual would receive credit or any compensation. Yet, it ended up creating an entire subculture. A game, that usually takes one focused person about 35-40 hours of work, strategy, and puzzle solving, was completed as a joint-effort between hundreds of thousands- possibly even millions- of people trying to, more or less, outshout each other. It took over 16 continuous days, hundreds of hours. But people around the world completed this task early on the morning Saturday, March 2. The project is now being redone with one of the next games in the series, Pokémon Crystal.

College Bites: Reid's Corner

By: Kaylene Hersey

Reid's Corner is located on East Longmeodow Rd in Hampden
Imoge: Kaylene Hersey

So just like I promised, I found a great diner and by going, you will be able to support our University's Health Services and Kathy Reid. Reid's Corner, located in Hampden, not only had a great atmosphere, but the food was excellent.

A friend of mine who had read my last review knew I wanted to find a nice diner, and though he had never gone to Reid's Corner, he had heard great things about the food and the service.

The dish I had was there Apple Pie Pancakes with a side of bacon. The pancakes were the right thickness and were very airy without being paper thin. The apples were sautéed in butter, cinnamon, and sugar. The apples were crispy on the outside but still soft on the inside. My only issue with the pancakes was that they didn't let the butter and the cinnamon condense into a sauce. I love when the apples are mixed with the sauce of butter and cinnamon. It makes the apples less dry and can take the place of syrup. It was not that big of a deal though because I just ended up putting syrup on the pancakes.

The bacon was also cooked perfectly. I like to have some crisp to the bacon but I also like it to be chewy. It was also thick-cut bacon, which always help.

The other dishes I tried were their vegetarian omelet and hash browns. The eggs were cooked very nicely and were really cheesy, which was very nice. The hash browns were nicely seasoned and tasted similar to waffle fries.

I also got to try their biscuits. If there is something I love, it is biscuits. I like the fluffiness of biscuits and Reid's Corner did a great job at making them. They were nice and buttery, along with being very airy, just like their pancakes.

Besides the food being great, the atmosphere was very homey. The staff was very friendly and welcoming to everyone. There was a wide range of people there, specifically in age. There were older people, families, and college students all meshing together really well in the dining atmosphere.

Reid's Corner is located at 20 East Longmeadow Rd in Hampden. One of the issues with the diner is the time. It is only open until 2 pm, which can conflict with many college student's schedules. The other issue is seating. I suggest you get there was early as possible and not at a busy eating time because getting a seat is difficult. However, this at least proves that if there is always a wait, it must be worth the wait.

Safety Tips: Driving

By: Srgt Stacey Gamache

If someone follows you and is persistent or becomes obscene, write down the license number and report it to the appropriate police agency as soon as possible.

Park in the best-lit parking lot nearest to where you are going.

If you are trapped in your car, honk your horn in quick short bursts. This will attract people's attention.

Make sure that all of the car doors are locked whenever you leave your vehicle.

When returning to your car, have your keys ready so you can enter your car quickly, and be aware of your surroundings. If you have to look into a purse or a pocket to find them, it takes extra time and you lose sight of what is around you, which could allow someone to sneak up on you.

As you approach your car, look underneath to make sure no one is hiding there. Before you enter your car look to see if all of the doors are locked or if there are any uninvited passengers in the back seat or on the floor. If your door locks are not the way you left them, or you see someone inside, leave the area as quickly as possible and notify the Western New England University Police.

Don't pick up hitchhikers.

Interested in sports?
Love going out and supporting the Golden Bears?
Have a knack for journalism or writing in general?
The Westerner would love to have you!
We are looking for any students who have an interest in sports or sports journalism who would be willing to write one WNE sports related article per issue.
If you are interested, join us at one of our meetings held every other Thursday at 8:00p.m. in rivers 126.

Opinion

The Art of Texting

By: Stefani Feole

For some reason texting between two people who are interested in one another has become more and more of a problem. People are resorting to following fictional texting procedures that, quite frankly, encompasses a relationship more than service it. It goes without saying that no sane person should be completely bombarding anyone else's phone with text messages and missed calls, but at the same time, you still want that other person to know that you're interested in them.

This brings me to the "1-1 rule." What this means is that for each text one person in the relationship sends, the other person, insanity, must accompany it with another text! This is simply encouraging the idea that everything in the world is equal and to be very honest, puts restraints on everyone in the situation. I have been in plenty of text message conversations where I have out texted someone or vice versa! Therefore, this "1-1 rule" is complete malarkey. Text as much as you please, within reason of course!

The next obscure "rule" that I cannot even begin to express my hatred for is the "10, 15, 30 minute rule." Honestly, whoever came up with this has to be single by now, because, WHAT? While I understand that no one wants to come off as too "eager," the idea that a person should have to wait a certain amount of time before texting the other back is absurd! If you can text someone back within a timely manner, then by all means do it! Don't worry about coming off as "eager" or locking yourself under time restraints based on how fast the other person answers you. At this point, you are simply playing games. By now, you and the person you are in contact with are dating or expressing your interest in one another. It does not matter if you text someone and they answer 30 minutes later. As soon as you see and or read a text message, you text those people back. Understand that by doing this, it does not make you "eager," it makes you polite.

Lastly, it is important that you understand that it should not matter the amount you text a person. If you have enough in common and are sincerely interested in one another, there will always be something to talk about and when there isn't, don't sweat it! If you are constantly pulling teeth to find something to say to one another, maybe you don't have enough in common to even be interested in one another. Conversations should flow, not always, but almost always. As I have mentioned before in previous articles, good conversations are imperative in forming a good relationship with someone. If you want to text someone 24/7, I say do it! But make sure the feeling is mutual and if it's not, move on!

Furthermore, all of these "rules" I have mentioned that you have ever been taught or have never Googled? Toss those things in the trash and burn them! Not only are they inaccurate, but they also misguide people into believing that these "rules" are supposed to help a prospective dating relationship. The reality of the matter is simply that these "rules" hinder a relationship and prevent people from fining something that could potentially be great!

Qualms & Quarrels: Advice Column

Q: I find I'm only being social on the weekends when I drink. It's fun, but I know it's not great for me. What can I do to try and get out of this habit and still be social without the alcohol?

-Socially Wasted

A: Socially Wasted, don't worry, it's understandable. I'm positive that you are not the only college student who has this issue because it is more common than people think. Kids leave home and come to a new school, most of them having left home for the first time, and they begin to get into habits as such where they can barely function in casual public settings without a couple of drinks. But fear not, I'm here to try and help you find other ways of being social so that this does not turn into a more dangerous habit for you.

For one thing, Western New England University always has some kind of awesome event on campus almost every weekend. I recommend you check the Student Activities Calendar on the university website, or the bulletin boards around campus, like the ones in the Campus Center and in the library, for flyers and information regarding news and activities around. Many clubs and organizations also make Facebook events online for their programs, so look to see if what your friends are doing match your interests. You can also simply ask around on campus for information regarding upcoming events as there are plenty of students and staff members who know tons more about these activities and events. Do not be afraid to speak up and ask!

In addition, find some board games that you and your friends or roommates like and invest in them. You can even see if the library has some of the ones you like available to rent. Get a bunch of people together and play board games; it's great fun and you can make it more interesting by adding your own rules to some of your favorites. You can also check the library for movies and get together with some friends for a movie night. This is a great way to pop some popcorn and find a movie you can laugh at, make fun of, or one that scares the pants off you!

As you can see, there are a ton of fun activities and events you can do to be social without needing alcohol. Lots of luck to you, and I hope you find some things that you really love doing!

Birthday Bashes or Birthday Blues

By: Steph Elizondo

Another year passes, and we all age a little more. Do we always celebrate? Or is there a point in time when everyone just stops caring about getting another year older? I think it's different for everyone and just depends on who you are. Maybe, it is even what you're used to.

I know a ton of people who go all out for their birthday every year and always have. They throw parties, eat tons of junk food, maybe play some games, and, if they are of age, have a couple of drinks. Some people see their birthdays as a time to rejoice and commemorate turning yet another year older. Others see it as simply a very valid excuse to have a huge get together with friends. Either way, they put a lot of effort into their birthday parties and make sure that they will be having a great time the whole day through.

On the other hand, there are people like me. After a certain point in life, I don't see birthdays as being all that special. I never really had big parties when I was younger, and maybe that's part of the reason why I just don't care now. But when I think about it, what's so special about getting older? Sure, you can have a party for a day, but then what? When all is said and done, you're left with a mess to clean up and all you have "accomplished" is tacking on another number to your age. Big deal! I simply don't see the point.

With age comes responsibility, jobs, marriage, kids...et cetera, et cetera, until the end of time. Yes, that's what we all want in the end, but is it really something to celebrate every single year?

On that note, if you like big celebrations, go for it. I'm not saying you're in the wrong. Personally, I'm happy keeping my birthday to myself and not worrying about having a huge party or anything pertaining to what comes with a typical "Birthday Bash."

Sports

Andres Otero: A Venezuelan Sensation

By: Michael Masciadrelli

Otero lines up for a forehand shot
Image: PJ Nassar Photo

As the brown-haired lefty Andres Otero, sets up to serve, all his focus is toward one thing; hitting a tennis ball. He bounces the ball with his right hand four times in front of him, keeping his eyes fixated on the bright, yellow tennis ball. He begins to shift his body back while tossing the ball above him about five inches slightly in front of him. His back knee then bends, and leaps off the ground, throwing his racquet hand at the ball. As the ball springs off his yellow and black striped Babolat racquet, the momentum generated causes his body to fall forward into the court. On the opposite side of the net, the ball bounces high and quickly off the right line of the server's box, far out of his opponent's reach.

Another ace for the 5' 10" sophomore from Venezuela. In 2013, Otero became an ace for the WNE Men's Tennis team.

Andres stands tall with his black Adidas shoes firmly planted into the court. No fist pumps or celebrative antics from Otero. He turns around, walks to the opposite side of the baseline and gets ready to do it all over again. At only 19 years old, Andres has been a standout player for the Golden Bears tennis team.

"He adds a different element of competition being a lefty because there isn't a lot of them out there," said his coach Jen Kolins. "Andres has a great backcourt game from the baseline, and has really good strategy and placement and also a good sense of the court. When he moves into the net court he's a real solid volleyer and can end points by having such a good volley and put away shot."

Since he first picked up a racquet at the age of 5, tennis has been a passion. Growing up in Caracas, Venezuela, his life was much different than currently in Springfield, MA. Not only did he have to get used to a completely different environment, Andres needed to make the adjustment to college and living independently in a foreign country. His guidance counselor at Henry Clay high school in Venezuela encouraged his idea of leaving the country to pursue his college endeavors in the United States.

"Education in America was really good for college and right now my country is not in a good situation since there are a lot of problems with the government, so staying there for school was not my best option," said Otero.

With his aunt and uncle both having a positive experience in Massachusetts and his girlfriend in the area, Andres wanted to try to find a school in the same state. He chose Western New England University in Springfield, MA, due to the engineering program. Yes, playing tennis is one of his top interests, but he doesn't plan on making a living out of it.

"Tennis is one of the main things in my life, but engineering is more important because that will get me the income for the rest of my life, while tennis is a hobby and something to have fun. I want to get a good job in Texas which is where I want to live in America if I stay here," said Otero.

Leaving home also meant leaving behind something most important to him - his family. For Andres, his mother, father, sister, aunts, uncles, and grandparents are role models and have influenced him in pursuing his passion in tennis and academics in the U.S.

"My parents supported me coming here and always wanted me to play sports for school in America. They know it will open big doors in the future for me and help prepare me for life and give me many opportunities," said Otero.

In the year-round tropical climate of Caracas, playing tennis was difficult due to court location and the community's poor organization of the sport. Andres claims that it was even difficult for him to find a tennis court to play on.

"Tournaments were very disorganized back there and didn't instigate me to want to keep playing so I stopped and played other sports. Here I have a team, while back at home, I was by myself and me playing for a national ranking," said Otero.

In Venezuela, Andres had to play on clay courts - a red dirt surface with a slower bounce. Despite not being used to hard courts, Andres found a way to adapt his game.

Making the adjustment for any incoming college freshman, who wants to play a sport for the school and excel in academics, is a challenge in itself. For a student coming from a different continent, it usually would make it that much harder. Not for Andres. He has taken full advantage of the unique independent way of life at college, using his teammates and his coaches as a major form of support. Kolins has been impressed with his motivated spirit both on and off the court.

"He's made the adjustment seamless," said Kolins. "Also, he's a very solid student in classroom with a very high GPA in engineering. His attitude has been positive every day and he continues to look forward to how he can get better."

Co-Captain of the Golden Bears, Tyler Unwin, has enjoyed playing alongside Otero.

"Andres always seems to have a smile on his face, win or lose," said Unwin. "He always looks out for his teammates and strives to make sure everyone is in a positive mood."

Despite coming to a small private NCAA Division III school, Andres was not the only member of the tennis team to travel a long distance to attend Western New England. His doubles partner, Alexander Sause, came over from Cusago, Italy, to pursue his academic and sports interest like Andres. Both of them tried to play another sport before tennis.

"Originally we had not intended to play tennis. We both didn't make the soccer team and as a consequence I came to the tennis team and then he came," said Sause.

Before he could set foot on the tennis court as a freshman, he had to fight through a couple major obstacles. His playing days at Western New England were delayed due to an ankle injury in the fall, causing him to miss tryouts. It lasted for a couple months, but later suffered another injury, this time to his right arm, once again pushing him back. Despite these setbacks, it only motivated him to strive harder during his first year.

"I think one of the things, which makes him successful is his focus," said Kolins. "His overcoming of adversity and obstacles is another strong point of his and has brought him a lot of success on and off court. Also, his competitive mentality of being a competitor and knowing what it takes to have the whole package - the physical and the mental."

When Andres isn't on a tennis court or studying engineering, he enjoys spending time mostly outdoors. He loves to fish, hike, scuba dive, go mountain biking, and spending time with his girlfriend. Andres also has a humorous side to his personality which his coach has noticed.

"Andres and his doubles partner Alex are always joking around," said Kolins. "They were the first ones to play an April fool's joke on us in an away match, which was ironic."

The bond between the Venezuelan and Italian can be seen on the court and also from their results. He and Andres have formed a close friendship from this connection. Together, they continue to improve competing as a doubles team. Last season the Italian-Venezuelan duo combined for an 8-5 record, including a six match winning streak dating from April 1st till April 16th in 2013. Never before had the number two doubles team put together a winning record for the Western New England men's team.

Playing so well in doubles with Alex has helped him become a strong singles player. Andres won five conference matches in a row and accumulated seven wins in total last season (6 in conference play.) Andres implemented his skills from singles which has helped him become a better doubles player.

"He always has a good drop shot and sometimes he always comes out with a super shot out of nowhere that nobody thought he would do," said Sause.

The tennis team has become a second family for Andres and made his first year at Western New England and the United States a positive one. He's excited for the challenges that lie ahead and has his eyes set on accomplishing much more for the upcoming season and the next few years.

"I would like to try to improve a lot to be in top positions in both singles and doubles, and also win the conference and go to the NCAA tournament," said Otero. "One of my biggest motivations is wanting to represent Western New England outside the school the best way I can and help the school win and have a good name in front of other schools. I'm proud to be a Golden Bear."

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Comments? Suggestions? Angry letters?

Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

Aramark Explores Grille Works Replacement

By: Gennah Borg

On most college and university campuses, there are various meal plans to choose from that allow students to dine in the main dining hall of campus, as well as a variety of flex points or simply, points, as we call them here at Western New England University, which students can use to purchase items from varying other dining areas on campus.

Here at Western New England, our university offers our students Subway, The Grill Works and Bene Pizza, in addition to our main dining hall as a source of dining option means. Word around campus is that a Burger King will replace The Grill Works for the fall semester of 2014.

Aramark is looking to replace the Grille
Image: Kaylene Hersey

According to Aramark Food Service Director, Roger Roberge, "A team of Aramark directors are currently reviewing and looking into the project to determine whether or not Burger King will be a good fit for our campus."

After having the op-

Continued on page 2

Spring Event Released: Andy Grammer & Boyce Avenue

By: Kaylene Hersey

Singer Andy Grammer and cover band, Boyce Avenue, have been booked for this year's Spring Event, which falls on April 25 at 8 pm.

"Spring event will be different; the elements of what previous concerts have tried are changing. We wanted something new and I think we have really put a good deal of effort into making that happen," said Senior Oliver Gregan, the Head of the Spring Event Committee.

Andy Grammer is an American singer-songwriter, who is known for his two hits "Keep Your Head Up" and "Fine by Me." His music is a mix of pop and alternative with a very upbeat sound.

"I didn't know his name [Andy Grammer], but I knew songs by him and they were very catchy so I think this will be a very good show that a lot of people can attend and have a good time," said Junior Elise Duquette.

Andy Grommer and Boyce Avenue will perform at WNE
Image: Silver Screen Designs

The second artist, Boyce Avenue is a popular cover band over youtube. They are mostly known for their acoustic covers and their collaborations with many young and rising singers.

"I am really excited about Boyce Avenue because they have great covers and amazing talent. I'm glad that they chose someone I knew that I have been following for quite awhile," said Junior Enrique Elizondo.

"At first, I thought it was a little different to have a cover artist, but I think it will be a good show because if they are covering popular songs, the crowd can follow along and have a great time," said Duquette.

"The artist was tough. With a student activities being short staffed in the fall, selection processes got delayed and our campus surveys were thrown out the window because of time. But this also made things easier because there was a lot more work done straight to the point. We wanted artist that could cater to anyone's music choice. We found exactly what we wanted. We also wanted an artist where students would recognize the music. Another aspect we filled well," said Gregan.

The Spring Event Committee has been hard at work, figuring out all the logistics for the concert, along with booking the artists.

"I have been previously involved with spring

Continued on page 2

News

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Administration Speaks about Snow Removal

By: Sarah Wiles

The Western New England community has felt the impact of the abnormal amount of severe weather that has hit the Northeast this winter. Dean Hart-Steffes, Vice President of Student Affairs, stated, "This has been a very difficult winter up and down the east coast. The southern states have had unprecedented winter storms that have caused a shortage of rock salt in the nation, and much of the inventory has been diverted to the southern states to help. As a result, the campus has not been able to purchase salt, but has had to rely on sand. If it snows or ices half an inch after the sand is applied, it ceases to be productive. Because of the national shortage of sand, and because we are trying to maximize our resources and be kinder to our campus environment, grounds staff have been sweeping up the excess sand in order to reuse sand as winter progresses."

The process of snow removal involves several important layers. Dean Hart-Steffes explains, "The first priority is to make campus accessible and passable in the morning. This means clearing pathways from the residence halls to the dining hall, while also plowing the roads so that people can get onto campus. As soon as that is complete, we go back and widen the sidewalks and roads for increased safety and access. Facilities Management coordinates the snow removal, supported by Public Safety and Student Affairs."

Since each storm is different, the protocol in place for dealing with snow removal is based off of the time and rate of each snow fall, the type of snow, and what types of activities are happening on campus. "If there is an event in Rivers, the sidewalks around Rivers are cleaned approximate to the time of the event," said Dean Hart-Steffes.

She goes on to explain, "Safety is our first priority. We monitor the weather well before the storm is scheduled to enter our region to better understand the storm and its possible outcome. Usually, decisions to close or delay school are made between 4:00 and 6:00 in the morning. Our goal is to safely prepare the campus community so that its members will be able to park and walk safely to wherever they need to go. It is very difficult to keep up with the storm if it is snowing of sleeting heavily, but we do try our best with the resources we have."

Finally, Steffes concludes, "The staff who comes in to remove snow are a very dedicated group of people who work hard to make the campus safe for all of us. I would hope that students understand their vital role and how important their work is to our campus."

Spring Event continued from first page

event as a stage hand and as an e-board member. Being in the head seat has really been a learning experience. You need to keep an eye on everything while relying heavily on others," Gregan said about taking the lead in the Committee.

Gregan had many reasons for taking on the head position, but they all had to do with wanting a good show for the campus.

"I took the spot because I saw a lot of things with Spring Event I wanted to improve. Adding new elements or starting that process so future years have an easier path to try new things was really important to me. It was important to emphasize for me to look at more than just talent. By the time you get down that list choices are typically limited, then on top of that the artist you choose are never unanimously agreed upon by the campus. So the focus went to things we could control, productions, publicity, and maybe a few new things. With that being said we have some amazing talents coming in," Gregan said.

Gregan was not alone in making the selection this year. He not only had a whole committee to help him, but the Committee finally got a faculty advisor, Tomas Donovan, to help them all through the process.

"It is my first Spring Event here, but at my previous institutions, I've done probably 30-40 concerts on college campuses, so I have a good background knowledge of what a show's typical risk factors are. It's just learning the new culture of campus and learning the nuances of how WNE wants the show to be produced and following the set guidelines. I'm trying to see if there are areas that I can help improve on; we'll be able to improve on them to make the experience of the student leaders that are planning the show a better experience, but also making sure it is a great experience for our audience," said Donovan.

Doors open for the concert at 7 pm. They officially close at 8:30 pm. Tickets are on sale now. Students can buy tickets at wneu.universitytickets.com. The student price is $10. If there are any tickets left by April 14, they will be available to faculty, guests and law students for $15. There can only be one guest per student.

"Our biggest goal is to provide an artist that is popular with the students and we provide a fun, safe atmosphere for the event. My hope is to make the show memorable for all the students," said Donovan.

The Grille continued from first page

portunity to ask students of the Western New England campus community what their thoughts on this new project installation were, many students expressed their interest in a healthier restaurant option. Some students however, while Burger King was not their first choice for varying reasons, when surveyed by Student Senate, are still not completely against the option of installing a Burger King.

"Personally, I voted against Burger King and for Taco Bell; however, I think it will be beneficial to campus to have a quick burger option on campus for those of us looking to eat and run," said sophomore Bobby Caruso.

Due to space restraints, the Aramark team of directors is working hard to determine what new restaurant will be the best fit in terms of space and more importantly, in terms of student interest. With the many changes happening on campus, the 2014 fall semester is sure to be a great one and we can't wait to see the new improvements to our campus community.

News & Entertainment

WNEKStock: A New Music Tradition

By: Morgan Harwthorne

Western New England recently hosted its very own version of the 1969 Woodstock festival, WNEKSTOCK.

The event hosted six hours of live music from six different bands, hailing from different places in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey. Each band filled the room with a different genre, creating a different atmosphere from hour to hour.

The event also hosted over 700 slices of pizza, accompanied by 45 dozen WNE Cookies.

Creator of the event and senior Communications major, Frank Maturo, said, "This is an event where the student population [came] together to relax and enjoy the music in an atmosphere of peace, love and happiness."

Maturo "conceived" the event in November, reaching out to other campus resources like WNEK, GBTV, CAB and the Gateway Village Hall Council, as the plan was originally to have the event outside for a more Woodstock-feel.

"The problem with having the event outside is that we run the risk of having it rain," said CAB's Small Concerts Chair Sam Dorfman, a junior Marketing and Sport Management major.

Blak Diemon premiered at WNEKStock
Image: Berit Bancroft

However, having the event inside didn't stop the constant flow of people.

"The turn-out was stellar," said Maturo.

Senior Creative Writing major Ryan Juliano said, "[I was] very happy to see a constant flow of people throughout the whole event. I think that shows what can be accomplished when so many groups come together on campus."

Several of the bands chosen to play were brought to Maturo by none other than our very own students. In fact, one of the bands is Maturo's: "Blak Diemon," comprised mostly of members of the Western New England community.

"This is our first gig," said Maturo. "We couldn't be any more excited to be here. We made a lot of noise and kept it loud and proud."

Along with Blak Diemon, WNEKSTOCK hosted 18th & Addison, an acoustic duo from New Jersey; Taylor and the Boys, a jazz ensemble from Holyoke Community College; Fat Bradley, a funk band from Connecticut; The Varlets, a rock band from Chicopee; and Whiskey, a hard rock band from Connecticut.

The mix of music helped to bring in a variety of people.

"Usually, it's tough to get people to come out for events like this – especially on a Saturday afternoon," said Dorfman. "This was a great event because of the large mix of music, which brought around a diverse bunch of people – a lot of people I've never seen at events before."

Maturo will be graduating in just a few short weeks; however, Dorfman plans to take charge and make this event an annual one.

"I'm definitely going to push for it to be done again next year," he said. "It was a success. And, it's a great lead-in before Spring Event."

Maturo was beyond content with the success of this event.

"I'm very humbled," he said after the closing of the show. "Without the contributions of all the members [of the groups] and the hard work from everyone this [event] wouldn't have been possible."

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Movie Review: Muppets Most Wanted

By: Steph Elizondo

Beginning like the typical Muppet movie always does with a musical number and dance, audiences expected that Muppets Most Wanted would be just like all the rest. However, earning $18,014,000 worldwide off of its debut proved that Muppets Most Wanted turned out to be one of the best Muppet films thus far.

A pleasure from start to finish, some would call this film more intense than the others of its kind due to the villains and the blindly trusting Muppets who don't realize when the bad guys are right in front of their eyes. It takes a lot more than a song and dance to get the gang out of the sticky situation they find themselves in this time.

With energy and ignorance the Muppets embark, unknowing that their own leader, Kermit, is missing, on a tour around the world. Everything seems great as they sell out every show and entertain the masses, but that's just the beginning of what seems to be the end. Meanwhile, Kermit is dealing with the severe conditions in a Russian prison, mistaken for the frog that took his place hack home with his friends.

While the Muppets continue their tour, crimes continue to be committed in every area they so happened to be in. But who's committing these heinous crimes? It'll take the realization of the most unlike cast members to figure out who done it and what to do about saving their fearless leader from jail.

It's a film for kids and adults of all ages, equipped with a stellar cast and a soundtrack you'll want to listen to time and time again. If you don't get a chance to see it in theaters, make sure to put this DVD first on your Christmas list.

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you!!

If you are interested in joining, come to the next meeting or email one of our staff. Meeting are every other Thursday. Our next meeting is **April 10th @ 8:00 pm in Rivers 126**

ENTERTAINMENT

TV Review: Psych/How I Met Your Mother Series Finales

By: Robert Gilchrist

WARNING: SPOILERS FOR BOTH FINALES…duh.

It's quite something for a television show to make it to eight or nine seasons. It can lead to many great moments and hilarious puns. But when a show runs for close to a decade, it runs the risk of having a greater legacy to live up to when it comes time for the series finale. In regards to both "Psych" and "How I Met Your Mother," which ended their storied runs within days of each other, they made their mark and left the way they were always going to…and that's okay.

For "Psych," there was never going to be a heartbreaking goodbye between Shawn and Gus. It wouldn't have fit with the slapstick comedy the pair had shared for countless cases. By relocating to San Francisco with Chief Vick and Juliet, the boys can now continue their adventures and live out the rest of their days doing what they love. Even the very last shot is indicative that their story has yet to end, far from it. The cases will continue, we just won't be there to see them.

With "How I Met Your Mother," however, the creators had a bigger legacy to fill. Ted had to finally meet his soul mate, the woman who would have his kids. It had to give satisfying endings to all of our character's stories, and wrap up the tale that old Ted had been spinning for nine years…all in one hour. It was heartfelt and emotional, but at the same time unexpected.

A lot of people had guessed correctly that Ted was telling the story because the mother was dead. Yes, by the time the viewer catches up to Ted in the year 2030, the mother has been gone for six years. But many weren't expecting the real reason for Ted's storytelling was to see if his kids would be cool with him dating Robin. It was an interesting turn that left many fans angry.

How I Met Your Mother ran for nine seasons

Image: Digitalspy.com

I'll admit, I didn't see it coming, and it felt like a bit of a cop out by the writers. The entire series had made Ted choose what life he had wanted. A happy marriage with kids and a big house, or to be with Robin, the girl he had pined after for so much of the series. To end up giving him both felt undecidedly fake. But in the end, it made sense for the show.

With "Psych," fans always knew the tale of Shawn and Juliet would end in marriage. It had to, right from season one the characters had flirted and played with each other to the viewer's delight. Having Shawn propose was the natural way for the show to end (even if the ring did get stolen in the last few seconds). With "How I Met Your Mother," the show built up Ted's love for Robin much more than his love for the mother. While she played a key role in his life, she wasn't the woman the show was about…that was ultimately Robin.

It's tough to nail a series finale. Very few shows can go out with a near perfect episode. Heck, we covered all that when "Breaking Bad" ended back in the fall. The idea of a finale isn't to produce the best episode of the series, but to give fans a great sendoff to the characters who have been part of their lives for years. With "Psych," that ending meant having Shawn and Gus continue on with their adventures for years to come. With "How I Met Your Mother," the answer may have been more complicated than a simple ride off into the sunset, but ultimately it may have been more rewarding. Ted and Shawn got the happy ending they deserved, and we had the pleasure of being along for the ride.

Video Game Review: Raymen Legends

By: Elizabeth Thompson

During spring break, my boyfriend and I found ourselves trading in our Wii for the Zelda special edition WiiU. However, as we tend to have friends over to play video games and hang out, we decided that we needed a few multiplayer games to add to our collection. The games we picked were Super Mario 3D World and Rayman Legends (RL.) After trying out both, I found myself enjoying RL far more than Mario.

In RL the point is to rescue all the teensies in each of the worlds. In each of the normal levels there are six to eight teensies as well as the King and Queen Teensy whose doors are hidden throughout the levels. Then there are the invasions levels and music levels. The invasion levels are tricky as you have to completed the course in under forty seconds in order to save all the teensies. They're timed for the first to go off in forty seconds, the second one ten seconds after that, and the third one again is ten seconds after that. Some of the courses are very tricky and require a lot of speed and timing which can be difficult to do. The music levels, however, were my favorites, specifically Castle Rock. The music level is the last level on any of the worlds to be locked and each world has one. The object is to survive the run and rescue all three teensies as they appear throughout the course. The final world you unlock is all all of the music levels put into 8 bits and those were definitely some of the hardest and most amusing levels to get past.

Along with this, as you progress through the levels, each world has two characters to unlock by doing a challenge. Then there are characters you unlock along the way as you collect lums - the currency of the game. The more lums you have, the more characters that are unlocked.

Overall I really enjoyed the game and mainly only played it as one player or two player, but it is good up to four players. It would definitely be interesting to play with multiple characters and probably trickier. I like how they incorporated the use of the gamepad which might look big and difficult to hold, but it's actually really comfortable. This game tried mine and my boyfriend's patients, but upon completion, we felt as though it was well earned. The game also has RL Origins attached to it as well which we will be completing next.

Improv on the Rocks!!

Alumni Show April 12th

Come Watch the Improv Troupe and some favorites from the past years!!

Show starts at 7 pm in the Rock!!

WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE

Entertainment

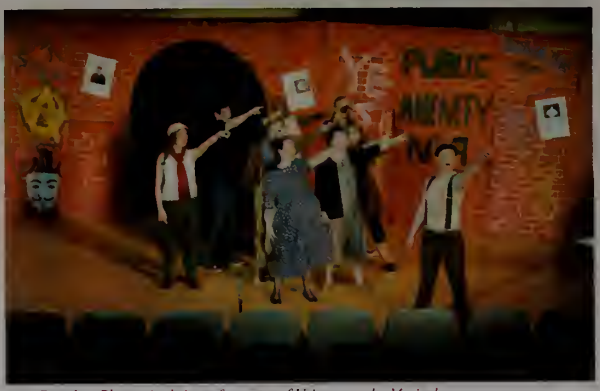
Musical Review: Urinetown

By: Robert Gilchrist

I've never been very partial for musicals. I don't know what it is, but for some reason people springing into song and dance every time something happens just doesn't appeal to me. So it says something when I truly enjoy myself watching such a spectacle. Fortunately, I felt nothing less than pure enjoyment after watching the Stageless Players' presentation of the musical "Urinetown."

The play itself is sharply written and heavily satirical, with many of its jokes coming from poking fun at the usual tropes of certain genres throughout the film. The satire is most present in Officer Lockstock and Little Sally, played by Nate Szymanski and Danielle Johnson. Both actors managed to bring a high level of hilarity to the sly asides and winks to the audience, whether it be regarding the typical two act structure or through questioning why the story only focuses on toilets and not irrigation.

But it wasn't only Szymanski and Johnson who got in on the fun. The entire cast brought a fun and exuberant energy to the production that was palpable right from the very opening number. Some of the highlight performances were those of Cory Candelet as Caldwell B. Caldwell (with an impressive tap dance number on top of his strong vocals,) Alex Escribano as Penelope Pennywise (who really knocked the audience dead with an impressive number in Act 1.) and the ill-fated lovers Chris Quigley and Sarah Babski as Bobby Strong and Hope Caldwell, respectively (who share perhaps the entire productions most humorous duet towards the end of Act 1.) It seemed as if the entire cast was having fun with this production, and that fun was infectious to the audience.



Stageless Players in their performance of Urinetown, the Musical

Image: Leah Martin

It wouldn't be a proper musical review without talking about the actual singing, and the cast managed to hit that ball right out of the park. All of the songs were poignant and befitting each scene and mood, but were brought to life with expert care by the entire cast. Each actor was perfectly suited for the part, and they all managed to nail the right notes when the spotlight fell on them.

Perhaps the only flaw to this production was that there were points that the accompanying music at times overwhelmed the actor's voices, leading to the lyrics being drowned out at times. Being seated towards the back of the room, these times were annoying in that there would be whole phrases that would be lost by the sounds of the piano and drums blasting their tunes off to the side. However, this is a flaw with most live musicals I have found, so it is a forgivable offense when weighed against the rest of the production.

The Stageless Players know how to put on one hell of a show. While their musicals are often hilarious, this year's production of the musical "Urinetown" manages to bring a new twist of hilarity to their usual repertoire of comedy. By choosing a musical that winks at the very nature of how a narrative of this style is structured, the entire cast and crew brought a fun and enjoyable performance to the students of Western New England.

Book Review: Immortal Rules, Blood of Eden

By: Elizabeth Thompson

Blood of Eden is the first installment of Julie Kagawa's series, Immortal Rules. What I found to be interesting with this book is that it is a combination of two different, popular genres: vampires and post-apocalyptic. In this world, the immortals rule. A disease known as the Red Lung has wiped out the majority of people throughout the world and the few humans who have survived are pets to the vampires or are unregistered which is a crime in the vampire world. Those who were taken over by the Red Lung either died or were turned into Rabids. These creatures share the bloodlust of vampires and can only be out at night as well, but unlike the vampires, they do not reason and live off of the basic, animalistic instinct: survival.

That's when Ally comes into play. While out scavenging with her group of "friends" they get attacked by the Rabids and though her comrades are dead, she gets attacked and manages to escape, though death is quickly on her heels. A rogue vampire by the name of Kanin comes to her rescue and upon her agreement, turns her into the thing she hates most, a vampire. He takes her in and trains her in the ways of a vampire - how to act, how to eat without killing, and most importantly, how to fight.

Throughout the story, secrets are revealed about Kanin: who he is, why the vampires hate him, and why Sarren is after him. Sarren is one of my favorite, if not my favorite, book villain of all time. He's psychotic, deranged, and perfect. One of my favorite aspects of Sarren you read about throughout the series is how charismatic he is. I don't mean charismatic in it's typical sense, but more along the lines of Hannibal Lecter in Silence of the Lambs where you know he's something even the boogyman fears and yet he makes you like him. Not to mention how he always refers to Ally as his Little Bird and constantly wants to hear her song. He also consistently references his love of hearing the songs of those he tortures and wants to hear Ally's song as he feels her's is going to more satisfying as it will hurt Kanin.

Overall, I do love this book, and not solely because of the villain. I thoroughly enjoyed the fast paced plot and the majority of characters. The majority of the main characters all played complex roles throughout the story and throughout Ally's journey. Ally, Kanin, and Sarren had me invested in their stories and left me wanting to continue reading their stories.

It's your last chance to order tickets for the CAB Trip to New York City to see Rocky: The Msucial on Broadway on April 12th!!!

Tickets are $30 and students can buy them on wneu.universitytickets.com

They are on sale until April 11th!!

Features

Club Spotlight: Model UN

By: Morgan Harthorne

Madel UN attends a canference every year at Harvard
Image: Mark Martinez

Model United Nations, more commonly known as Model UN, is a club on our campus that the majority of us know little to nothing about.

That needs to change.

The club, although somewhat demanding, provides a multitude of long-term benefits to all who do their part. Meant to echo the spirit of the real United Nations, the club teaches students diplomacy, presentation skills, and networking skills through its attendance at one of the most prestigious conferences in the world – approximately 3,000 students from 90+ countries – the Harvard National Model United Nations.

"The conferences are definitely the most exciting part of being in the club," said Andrej Novakovski, a senior Political Science major and President of the club. "Our entire existence is related to this one specific experience."

The group begins meeting early in the fall semester. It's open to anyone who wants to join, however there is a high level of commitment that comes with the club. Since the purpose of the club is to attend Model UN conferences, specifically Harvard, they must have a concise list of students willing to put in the effort to research the country assigned by the conference to the group.

"There is an initial two-page paper and a five-minute presentation," said Novakovski. "It's to prove that the person is dedicated and willing to put in the effort necessary to do well at the conferences."

Once the group gathers all members, new and old, it begins preparing for the Harvard conference, held in February. Trainings come first – Model UN comes with its own rules, regulations and, yes, even its own language.

"Students use the trainings to learn and practice the procedures of the conference. For example, if they want to speak, they have to learn how to address the people they're talking to. They're no longer students; they're 'delegates.' The language is often the hardest part," said Economics Professor Karl Petrick, co-advisor of Model UN.

"Our club is very well organized," said Filip Novakovski, senior Psychology major and Treasurer of the club. "We are focused on really helping the students [who are] interested in [Model UN] to have the best experience ever through consistent preparations."

The group is not only assigned to take on the role of a certain country, but within that country (and the group,) students are split into different committees according to different world issues, past or present. Students could be placed into a committee specializing in issues of World War II, the conflict in Syria, Nuclear Disarmament, or the Olympic Games. Some committees are exact replicas of those in the real United Nations – the World Health Organization (WHO,) Disarmament and International Security (DISEC,) and Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee (SOCHUM,) to name a few.

"The world changes so much," said senior History major and Vice President, Johana Machado. "The conference is a great way to give you knowledge about the world around you. It definitely makes you think about what's going on – a lot of things hit home."

Sometimes, the issues don't always hit our team as close to home as they do for other delegations.

"[All of the topics] seem unrealistic, but they're actual real-life issues," said Andrej Novakovski. "Last year, one of our topics was on Syria. The leaders of the conference reminded us that some of the students who were attending the conference were actually directly being affected by this issue, so we shouldn't make a joke of it."

Many students hear that there is a required paper and presentation for this club and run for the hills. The workload may appear to be overwhelming at first, however once students get into the rhythm of research and become passionate about what they're doing, the experience becomes that much more valuable.

Machado said, "It seems like a lot of work, but it's really not. We do all of these preparations so that when we're at the conference, we're able to represent ourselves, the country we've been assigned and the school really well."

President Andrej Novakovski said, "The more prepared [we] are, the more each debate matters to [us.] It makes the whole experience worth it, because [we've] been preparing for months and [we] are finally able to present [our information.]"

The amount of dedication and seriousness necessary to participate in Model UN is overwhelming, at first. But, the experience brings with it such value that students cannot resist returning.

"It's a unique experience," said Filip Novakovski. "You meet a lot of people who are dedicated to what they do and to helping a lot of others. You're surrounded by smart and well-prepared people. Being in that environment transforms you – you become a different person in the way you talk and behave. It makes you feel good about yourself and what you're doing there."

Almost all of the members of the club are returners; some have participated all four years of their career. Many have outlined the social aspect to be what keeps them coming back.

"You get to meet people from 90+ countries," said junior Political Science major, Jon Pierre. "And the friendships you build actually last. You become friends on Facebook with them and keep in touch until the next conference – a year later."

"The people you meet – that's what's really important," said Machado. "You get to learn about people and see different perspectives from all over the world."

The conference always holds social events at the end of each day, including events like karaoke, a club night, cocktail hour, etc.

"The social atmosphere, when you're not in your committees, is where you get to experience all of the different cultures, languages, [and] international food. It's a great opportunity to talk and network," said Machado.

The club usually attends two conferences each year; however the Harvard conference is of the utmost importance.

"The second conference is a lot smaller, creating a much more direct connection between delegations," said Professor Laura Janik, co-advisor of the club. "It's also much less overwhelming."

Model UN just returned from their second (and final,) smaller conference of the year, Five Colleges Model United Nations, where it closed out the year on a great note! The delegation won its first-ever award and its first verbal commendation (basically, a verbal award) in all of its time here as a club.

In the next few years, the club hopes to expand and grow, continue earning more awards, and hopefully create a class here on campus, but to do that, they need your help! If you are interested in joining Model UN, keep an eye out for information in your University Posts next fall!

Features

College Bites: Tokyo

By: Kaylene Hersey

There is once in awhile each semester where I am sick of being a poor college student and I make myself believe I have enough money to afford to go to a nice fancy restaurant with extravagant entrees such as filet mignon or lobster. However, there are only two ways this happens. One, I can save up my money and two, when holidays and my birthday come up. Well, I am really bad at saving money because I love food way too much, so that leaves me with only one option. I have to wait until those wonderful holidays roll around and I have the money and reason to splurge.

This year for my birthday, I was able to go to Tokyo Asian Cuisine on Cooley Street in Springfield. Now, I have gone there many times before for their sushi and their sushi is not too expensive. But what is expensive but totally worth every penny is their hibachi.

Tokyo serves both Hibachi and Sushi

Image: Kaylene Hersey

Hibachi is something that I have been having for many years and I have gone to many different places. I even went to a hibachi place in Disney World, which was crazy expensive and fantastic, so believe me when I say, this hibachi was great.

At Tokyo, for their Hibachi, you get soup, salad, rice, vegetables, and whatever meat you would like, or more vegetables if you don't eat meat. I got a combo dish with steak and shrimp.

The soup and salad were the same type of soup and salad you would always get at a hibachi place. That is not to say it isn't good. It just was not something new or special about Tokyo. The fried rice was delicious. It was not too salty, which easily happens due to the soy sauce, but this rice was seasoned nicely.

Whenever I go to hibachi, I must get shrimp. The shrimp here was really juicy and seasoned well. The cook was able to get a good sear on them without drying them out. That is one of the issues with cooking shrimp. They are so easy to overcook and being just a little overcooked will dry them out too much. The same went for the steak. It was very tender and juicy.

There are two reasons people get hibachi. One is obviously for the delicious food, but the other reason is for the show. If you have never gone to a real hibachi place where they cook the food in front of you, then you are missing out.

There was the onion volcano, the flipping the spatulas in the air and catching them behind the chef's back, cracking the egg for the fried rice in the air, and they even tried to fling the cut up zucchini pieces into my mouth. It is always a lot of fun and it makes waiting for your food actually entertaining. I also love watching them cook because they have such finesse in their skills. It truly is amazing. Not to mention, I am always in awe of talents that I will probably never have.

Tokyo's hibachi is something I would definitely recommend to anyone. The only real downside is their price. However, for special occasions, it is definitely worth every penny you spend.

PUBLIC SAFETY BLOTTER

On March 12, 2014 at approximately 4:40 p.m., Western New England University received a report of a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian at the Emerson crosswalk on Wilbraham Road. The pedestrian was identified as a Western New England University student. As Officers arrived, WNE Health Services was already rendering medical treatment to the student. Springfield Police Department responded for investigation. The student was transported to Bay State Medical Center by Ambulance.

On March 14, 2014 at approximately 2:15 p.m., Office of Information Technology reported suspicious activity on more than 640 WNE computers. Through investigation, it was determined a student had downloaded a software program to computers in both Churchill and Herman Hall with the intent to pull all available resources as a part of an online competition. As a result of this program, the computer labs were overheating and bogging down the systems. A student was later identified as the offender.

On March 27, 2014, a wallet was turned into the Alumni Healthful Living Center Security desk. In attempt to identify the owner of the wallet, a fake Delaware I.D. was found. The owner admitted the I.D. was false. The I.D. was subsequently submitted to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles for a hearing.

On March 29, 2014, at approximately 1:50 a.m., Officers responded to Berkshire Hall for report of an intoxicated female. The female, not affiliated with the University, stated she came from an off campus party but was unable to give an exact location. Through the Officer's evaluation, it was determined the female party was highly intoxicated and unable to care for herself. American Medical Response was requested and transported her to Mercy Medical Center for further medical treatment.

On March 29, 2014 at approximately 10:20 p.m., Officers responded to Evergreen South Lot for a report of two unruly males. Upon arrival, Officer's spoke with a male seated on the rear of a motor vehicle. During conversation, the Officers observed the male party to have red glossy eyes and a strong odor of alcoholic beverages emanating from his person. The male party, identified as a WNE student, admitted to having consumed alcoholic beverages this evening. The Officer's determined through a series of questions that the student was not in danger of harming himself and was subsequently left under the supervision of his roommate.

Reminder, please make sure that your E2 campus account is active. Also, make sure that you have checked the box to receive WNE Weather Alerts regarding cancelations and delay notifications.

DPS at: www.wnepolice.net

ACSR report posted on web. http://www1.wne.edu/assets/28/2011_ACSFSR.pdf

Meet the Staff

Kaylene Hersey is a junior creative writing major, minoring in Psychology. She is currently the Editor-in-Chief and News Editor. She has been on the paper since her freshmen year. She is also involved with Stageless Players and Campus Chorus. She loves to sing, write, dance, and bake many elaborate desserts.

Sarah Wiles is the Assistant Editor and Entertainment Editor. She is a senior, majoring in psychology, and minoring in political science. She has a beautiful black lab guide dog named Renee who accompanies her around campus. She plans to go on to law school in the fall.

Claire Wright, as the new Program Coordinator in Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, has assumed the role of advisor for The Westerner and couldn't be happier to do so.

Claire comes to us with a bachelor's degree in Communication/Sports Journalism and English, and a Masters of Education in Student Personal Administration in Higher Education.

She can be found on the second floor of the Campus Center in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Development, and says feel free to stop by anytime if you have questions, ideas for programs, or just want to say hi.

Robert Gilchrist is a creative writing major at Western New England University. He is currently a sophomore and a writer, copy editor, and secretary for the Westerner. He also works in the writing center at WNE, helping to shape the minds of aspiring writers in dire straits. He is an avid comic book reader, television enthusiast, and all around geek. He hopes to one day use his genius master plan to take over the world, but if that doesn't happen he wants to be a writer of whatever seems fun and adventurous.

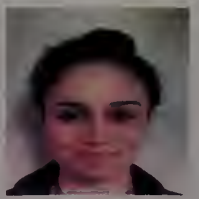
Spencer Ives is an English Literature major hailing from all about New England, but primarily the North Shore of Massachusetts. In addition to being a writer for the Westerner, He is also a student tutor in the Writing Center in Herman. One of the biggest passions of his life is traveling.

Gennah Borg is sophomore Communications/ Public Relations major here at Western New England University. Gennah is from Long Island, New York and enjoys being involved on campus. Gennah is the Opinions Editor and Treasurer for The Westerner and the Travel chair for the Campus Activities Board here on campus. Gennah loves attending live sporting events and looks forward to whatever comes next!

Elizabeth Thompson is one of the staff writers. She is a senior majoring in creative writing and minoring in philosophy. She has three bearded dragons and three leopard geckos. She loves to read, write, and watch movies and shows.

Morgan Harthorne is a senior English Literature major with a minor in Spanish. She is from a tiny town in the woods of New Hampshire. In her spare time, she loves to cook, read, write and of course, relax with her friends. Her post graduation plans have yet to be confirmed, but she hopes to find a career in writing, and eventually become an editor, after she travels the world (hopefully!).

Steph Elizondo is a sophomore majoring in English-Literature. She's been on the Westerner general staff for two years and writes various types of pieces for the paper. She has two guinea pigs, Ginger and Hazel, which live at her boyfriend's apartment. She's not sure exactly what she wants to do in life, but she wants to try out editing, publishing, and story and poetry writing to decide what her calling in life is.



Stefani Feole is a Junior Psychology major. This is her first year writing on The Westerner. She enjoys writing the dating column for each edition.

Opinion & Puzzles

Rape Culture: It's Not Just a Feminist Fight

By: Kaylene Hersey

When someone asks what rape is, what do you think of? Let me guess, it involves a dark alleyway, a stranger and a girl in the wrong place at the wrong time. Well, let me give you another scenario. A girl at a party drinks too much and is flirting with a guy at the party, possibly a good friend, one thing leads to another and they end up in an empty bedroom. The girl is far gone and they have sex without any real consent. Yes, this is rape. Those who doubt this, are the reason I am writing this article.

Those of you who thought "she was asking for it" or "she shouldn't have been drinking so much" are the reason Rape Culture is such an issue in today's society. I want to make it clear that this is not an angry feminist rant, because not only females can be raped and men aren't the only ones who thought, "she was asking for it." Rape is an issue that all genders should be concerned with because unless you are an insane individual who is turned on by another person in an unconscious state or one whom is completely in your control while having sex, you more than likely think rape is wrong. However, that is not the issue. The issue is the definition of rape. Many people believe that the scenario previously described is not rape, however, it is not their fault. It is the culture that we live in that has created that view.

Rape Culture is a culture that accepts sexual violence as a normal behavior. It is a culture that blames the victim; a culture that is not taught that rape is wrong. Our culture, however, is also more set on blaming the victim. Many of you are probably thinking that we don't live in a world like that. Rape is wrong and our culture would never accept such behavior. Well, our culture only taught us the straightforward and black and white scenarios, excluding the gray areas.

In defense classes for females, they first start the class by giving tips on how to not come off as a vulnerable individual. Their intentions seem genuine and it is great to be proactive about one's own protection. Although having good intentions, why should females be told to act a certain way and dress a certain way when it would be just as easy to teach people that rape is simply wrong?

Part of the issue in today's society is the way women are viewed. Women are often seen as prizes to many men. Females are also often viewed as objects that men can "pick up" just as they pick up the remote. It isn't that easy, though! There is such a thing as chivalry, and there is a thing called dating. Picking up a girl or guy should not be easy and people should want to put some work into finding a significant other.

Most people know about the Steubenville rape case in which, a teenage girl drank too much and was raped by two football players. These men did not sneak up on the girl in a dark alleyway; however, both men did see a drunken girl who was way past the ability to give consent. To these men, they thought they were winning a prize. Unfortunately for them, the only "prize" they were faced with was rape charges. When the verdict was given and the football players were found guilty, most people were in shock and could only focus on how the promising futures these men had before them that was now destroyed. It is appalling that these men raped a girl and all that the media could focus on was how the victim ruined their lives, as this situation was the victim's fault.

As we can see, the victim did nothing wrong. Sure, she was drinking and yes, maybe she had more than she could normally handle, but she was unconscious and unable to think clearly. That is rape. Yet, most people think that this girl set out to ruin the lives of these men. This is the issue at hand.

I think a leading factor in our society's effort to eliminate Rape Culture is to provide less education on how females should present themselves while going out and provide more education regarding why rape is wrong and immoral. This can further teach our society that it is a good thing to put effort into making relationships work in a healthy manor, as well as teaching people what giving consent truly means, for there is a blurred line as to what consent means. Ever heard of "no means no?" Well, no always means no, for those of you wondering. If a person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they are not able to give consent. There needs to be a verbal yes when both parties are sober and if one of them is under any form of influence, people need to learn to just not go there.

The issues in our culture are not the rapists whom attack women. Everyone knows that these are horrible people. The issue isn't that rapists are strangers. Rapists can be friends; they can be family members. And more importantly, rape is not black and white. There are many grey areas of this issue, and these are the areas that we need to focus our attention towards. Only then, will we be able to live in a world where rape is always seen as a terrible and unacceptable act.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		1		4		8		
8	2		6				3	
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	9			8				1

Place e number in the empty boxes in such a wey thet each row ecross, each column down and eech small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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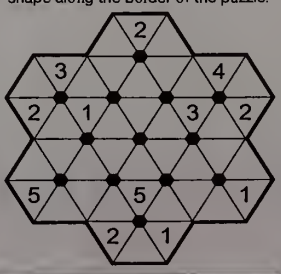
SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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Star★Map

By Linda Thistle

Draw a star in exactly 10 of the empty squares in the diagram below so that each numbered square accurately indicates how many immediately adjacent squares (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) contain a star.

		2				
	4			1		
	2					
		3		4		
						1
			2			3

DIFFICULTY: ★

★Easy ★★Moderate ★★★YOWZA!

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Opinion

The Return of Heroes: Is It Really that Heroic?

By: Rob Gilchrist

In the closing days of the 2014 Winter Olympics, NBC made a surprising announcement that caught many viewers off guard. In 2015, the network would be bringing back their one time hit show, "Heroes," for a thirteen episode limited series entitled, "Heroes: Reborn." Many fans met this announcement with skepticism and I was one such person.

I had watched "Heroes" as it aired its original episodes and was enthralled by the characters. Like "Lost," the show had a wide main cast that each offered insight into how someone might react if they discovered they had superpowers. There were those that did heroic things naturally, those that used their powers for their own personal gain and those that just wanted to be left alone. The writing was crisp and the story was engaging. It was one of my personal favorite shows. Then season two happened.

The original plan of creator, Tim Kring, was to introduce a new cast each season and rotate through new groups with abilities and powers. However, since the characters from season one were so popular, this led to them being carried over through later seasons. This, in turn, led to stagnation. These characters that had been so engaging had become stale and fallen into the same stories season after season with little character growth. By the time the show was cancelled, very few fans still enjoyed watching.

Thus, why I'm hesitant to jump on board with this new show. The plan is to get back to the original concept and introduce an all new cast for this miniseries, however, I feel as if "Heroes" has used up all its magic. Yes, the characters we had before didn't grow the way normal characters should, but is that the fault of the writers?

With this new show comes the return of Tim Kring, the very man who helped guide the show into stagnation in the first place. Are we to believe that he will suddenly be able to develop an entirely new adventure that fans can get behind, or will we see a return to the same tropes that were overused and overplayed in earlier seasons? I feel as if little will change for this new series and if I see one more "flash forward" to an apocalyptic future that needs to be prevented, I'll know I was right.

Fans also have to wonder why the NBC network is choosing to renew "Heroes" now instead of before in the first place. Could it be that with the rise of comic book related hit shows such as "The Walking Dead," "Agents of SHIELD," and "Arrow," NBC has decided to hop on the bandwagon and have their own horse in the race once more? I'm inclined to agree, although they may want to put their money on the in-development "Constantine" instead of the old, worn-down "Heroes."

Perhaps I'm wrong. Maybe some time away from the show has cleared Kring's eyes and given him the opportunity to come up with new, fresh takes on the superpowers trope. Or maybe this new series will bring about one of those apocalyptic futures that the heroes must prevent. Only time will tell.

Qualms and Quarrels: Advice column

Q: I'm really good friends with my roommate; we have roomed together for two years. All of a sudden however, he is not cleaning any of his stuff in the apartment and it's getting on my nerves. He leaves dirty dishes all over the kitchen, his dirty clothes are scattered across both sides of the room and he's apparently forgotten that the couch is not where we throw trash away. How do I approach him without ripping his head off? -Frustrated Roomie

A: Hey, I understand why you are frustrated; I've been in similar situations and know plenty of people who have too. It happens. Sometimes, you think you know a person and then you live with them and see what they are really like. Sometimes, that person is a real mess. But, sometimes you have to learn to roll with the punches.

Seeing that you have lived with your roommate for two years and this is just now becoming an issue, it sounds like he has gotten lazy. Take a step back and think about the situation first. Has something happened with your roommate to make him give up on cleaning? Is something going on to make him upset, depressed, anxious, or anything of this nature? If so, the problem might be bigger than you think and it's just manifesting in sudden unclean behavior. If you think there is an issue, talk to your roommate about what is going on outside of your apartment maybe with family, classes, or significant others. By trying to get to the root of the problem, your roommate may understand more what it is he has been doing wrong and agree to work on getting back in the groove of picking up after himself.

If you try to find a hidden reason for his messiness and it turns out that he is simply being lazy, first thing is make sure to keep your cool. You don't want to ruin a good friendship over some household issues. Simply tell your roommate that you would appreciate if he picked up his clothes, cleaned his dishes and actually put his trash in the trashcan because you don't like the house remaining a mess. If your roommate truly is your friend he will understand and do his part to help keep your living area neat. In case your roommate remains lazy about these things, keep bringing it up and mentioning it until he complies. However, try not to do anything you wouldn't want done to you if the roles were reversed. Best of luck, Frustrated Roomie! I hope your roommate starts to clean up his act!

Housing: The Big Elephant in the Rooming Process

By: Elise Duquette

A big change is coming to Western new England University for the 2014-2015 school year and it involves the most crucial and nerve racking process that all college students whom live on campus have to decide: housing selection. The university released a statement informing students that Plymouth Hall is being taken offline at the end of the school year, which would result in the university not increasing the cost of housing for the 2014-2015 year. For almost every on campus college student, increases in tuition, fees, and room and board are a nightmare. Thus, for Western New England to assure that housing costs will not increase, came as wonderful news for many of its students. However, this decision produced a somewhat surprising problem when the housing selection process time rolled around.

Every spring semester, students on campus rush to find fellow peers to live with for the following year. I myself have lost sleep and trembled as I waited for my housing selection day to arrive. Once the housing selection process began, everything seemed to be running smoothly, but after only 24 hours there were only four Evergreen Village apartments left to choose from. My group, comprised completely of seniors, luckily managed to get an Evergreen apartment, but there were still five senior days left to choose housing and I knew of many other six person groups that were made up of entirely seniors, that weren't picking until subsequent days later than myself. Needless to say, this caused many problems for seniors with six person groups as well as other students with similar numbers, since there were only a handful of rooms left available for them to choose from. Word spread fast around campus that there was a reasoning to so few rooms left open for seniors in Evergreen Village, that reason being that many underclassmen paired up with seniors in order to get into upperclassmen housing.

When a group is assigned a housing selection day, it does not matter how many seniors are in that group as long as there is one, even if the rest of the group members are freshman, they get to pick on a senior housing selection day. How can this be fair for a group with only one senior, to pick before a group with all seniors? There are plenty of housing opportunities for freshman and sophomores since there are freshman only dorms and sophomore only dorms on our campus. However, there are not any senior or junior only housing opportunities, which make the housing selection process more difficult for upperclassmen.

How come Evergreen Village or Southwood Hall are not reserved for upperclassmen only? It's clear that there is an issue with the housing selection process and that there needs to be a change. Unless another residence hall is built on campus or the housing selection processing system itself is changed, there is going to be a continued level of unfairness during this crazed time of year.

Opinion

Batteling the Sexes: The Feminist Response

By: the Feminist Unite!

Here is what to do when misogynistic individuals are giving you grief, you're on your period and the men in your life seem to think there are sea monsters erupting from your body... They joke amongst themselves that your period is like a hurricane or that the "sharks" are on the prowl. You shrug it off since you have been dealing with ignorance like this your whole life and you know that the only nautical themed joke these guys could make if they actually knew anything about the female body is that you "sprung a leak." Or, if you're like those of us who read the Battle of the Sexes opinion piece in the February 27th issue of The Westerner, you rage and wish there was something you could do about it.

Well now there is, if the Western New England University's Feminists Unite! club has anything to say about it! The article written has taken what could have been an informative and respectful topic and completely insulted any woman who has ever menstruated. One would think that since the word "man" is in that term that the person who penned that drivel would be able to be an adult about this, but clearly it is not the case.

Women and their periods were metaphorically referred to as weather, such as bodies of water, and all around natural disasters. Men who have had to "deal with" the menstruating women in their lives were cast as warriors that had to survive and defend themselves from women and their periods. Not only is this disrespectful and rude, but the issue came to print one week after our university's production of The Vagina Monologues, making this a very "tactful" situation.

The splitting of the article into the male perspective and the female perspective was in fact a clever idea. It sets up readers to believe that both male and female writers give advice to the unnamed asker of the question "My girlfriend is on her period. What do I do?" Both writers have made extreme exaggerations of the nature of menstruating women that are harmful to the perception of women as well as make it seem as if we are back in middle school and we haven't paid attention in sex education class. Anyone reading this article is at least 18 years old, and many of the symptoms described here are outrageous and would only materialize in a young girl in early puberty years or in someone with premenstrual dysphonic disorder (PMDD), an extreme form of premenstrual syndrome (PMS).

The female side of this article is just as unhelpful to women as the male side is. Part of the female struggle is dealing with periods as part of life, but they should also be a part of the female celebration. Comments such as "girls get the short end of the biological stick" minimize the great things that having a period means: i.e. that women's bodies can create children if the woman is so inclined or physically able. There is also no reason why scales and mirrors should be broken simply because a woman is on her period. It is perfectly natural to bloat slightly or break out during PMS or the length of one's period, but that does not mean that every woman has acute self esteem issues and doesn't want to look at her own face. There's enough criticism about women's bodies in the world, and when it's coming from other women it is especially hurtful. Women should build each other up and support each other through their cycles. That being said, the author of the female side has suggested that men support their menstruating girlfriends as well. However, she does this in conjunction with the man's masculinity and testosterone. There is nothing about either of those two things, one being completely arbitrary, that have to do with the quality of a person or the ability one has to be supportive and understanding.

In the future, the Feminists Unite! club wants to bring more awareness to controversial issues to which our community has become immune and desensitized. It is important to avoid making rash generalizations that are damaging to the overall image of certain groups of people. We want to see respect flow through this campus In all facets.

Long Distance Relationships

By: Stefanie Feole

"Oh, so you're dating someone long distance? Are you serious? I could never do that! Oh, I guess that's nice..." If any of you were wondering what a typical response would be when you tell someone that your significant other either lives far away, this is what it would sound like.

Yes, long distance couples face many difficulties that couples whom are not far apart do not, however, everyone seems to make it work one way or another. It takes special people to be able to make long distance relationships work. These types of relationships require a few things, some of them being trust, loyalty, and dedication. Now, I know what you're thinking, those things are imperative to a mainstream relationship! Let me clarify a thing or two...These things mean a whole lot more when distance is involved in the relationship.

Being that most of us are college students, trust is not easy to come by. Many of us are used to being used and abused by people we trust, and soon learn that this trust has been misplaced. Long distance relationships require blind trust, trust that is felt and not seen. This trust must be mutual or else the relationship will be difficult to maintain. Both people must be fully open and honest with one another about everything. Communication is key, even more so in long distance relationships! I'm not talking communication as in constantly texting and calling on another, but the kind of communication that requires being open and honest with one another about everything.

There are few things that those who choose to invest in long distance relationships should know. The first being that listening to other people and their opinions regarding long distance relationships is very counterproductive. No one else knows your relationship better than you and your significant other do! You should not let anybody tell you how he or she feels or what they think about your relationship if you are happy.

It is important to remember that long distance relationships can and will work if you want to make them work. Also, it is important to make sure you feel as though this person is worth the extra time and effort for. Is this really something you want to work at? If yes, then you will most likely succeed in your long distance relationship. After all, you don't want to completely make yourself available to someone who is not willing to do the same for you.

Lastly, it is crucial to understand that long distance relationships won't be easy and although there is no "right" way to make a long distance relationship work, try your hardest and work at it, because trust me, it'll all be worth it if you want it to be.

Above all, make sure you are happy in your relationship! Love is a beautiful thing and distance should not make or break that! Always keep in mind that when you are in a relationship, you and your significant other are on the same team and you both should want the same things. Find different ways to keep each other happy and enjoy your relationship together! Distance does not mean anything if two people truly love each other.

The Opinion Pieces published in the Westerner do not necessarily reflect the opinion and view point of the Westerner as a whole. Here, at the Westerner, we will publish anyone's opinion as long as it does not slander a specific student, a club or organization here on campus or the readers as a whole. We like to cover the spectrum of opinions across campus since we are the Student Newspaper.

Sports

A Historic Start for Women's Lacrosse

By: Michael Masciadrelli

The Women's Lacrosse Team has yet to lose a game this season
Image: Patrick Stewart

After 11 games, Women's Lacrosse have yet to lose. Each opponent that has stepped onto the field to challenge the Lady Golden Bears have not come out on the winning side. A combination of great team play, talent, and focus have all contributed to the best start in the history of the program.

On spring break, the team traveled to Texas to play in two games against some out of conference competition. In their first game, they took on the University of Dallas, routing them 21-2. Senior Shelby Trebbe led all scorers with five goals and Kaitlyn Stevens chipped in four goals of her own to lead the Golden Bears to victory. They then made quick work of Southwestern University 20-4. Tri-captain Jessica Scannapieco led the Golden Bears with six points and 14 draw controls, propelling the Golden Bears to a perfect 2-0 in Texas. Goalie and Junior Emily Castleman, reflects on their spring trip to Texas.

"Our spring trip to Texas was an adventure. This was a new place for our team to travel and we enjoyed it. We have become a very close knit team since traveling to Texas, and have continued to play team lacrosse since being back home," said Castleman.

Emily has started nine of the ten games for the Golden Bears, compiling a 50% save percentage. On field chemistry has been a main reason why the Lady Golden Bears have played so well. Emily sees how well the team has gelled on the field this season.

"This year's team is so special compared to previous years. Almost all of us have played together previously last year. Since we have mostly all been playing together since last year, we have a special team chemistry both on and off the field," said Castleman.

Kaitlyn Stevens has led the team with 32 goals scored and has led to her becoming co-athletes of the week with Sophomore Alex Sause, of the Men's Tennis team. She has performed well as one of the attackers for WNE leading the Commonwealth Coast Conference with 51 points (assists plus goals).

After a four game road swing the Golden Bears will finally return back home to Golden Bear Stadium on April 17th to play a conference game against Lasell College. The communication major captain, Scannapieco, still keeps expectations very high for herself and the rest of her team.

"Everyday is a day closers to the CCC (Commonwealth Coast Conference) championship and as a captain my goals are to keep our team focused, grounded, and working hard. We have so much talent and potential there's really nothing we can't do."

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

7	5	1	3	4	8	9	6	2
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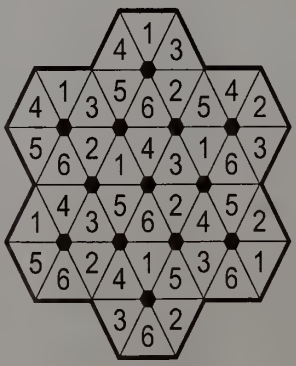
SNOWFLAKES

solution



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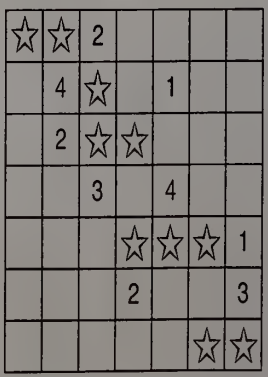

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Please e-mail: westerner@wneclubs.org

WNEK May Be Off the Air But They're Not Dead

By: Sarah Wiles

WNEK as of right now is no longer on oir, but ore streoming live
Imoge: Kaylene Hersey

WNEK 105.1FM, the student radio station, is no longer going to be accessible through the airwaves, but will continue to grow in its online presence. Former Operations Manager Frank Maturo states, "We want our content to be competitive against what you can catch on Pandora, or similar radio online services."

Maturo explains, "We are moving in the direction of fully streaming our content to our listeners through digital sources, such as TuneIn Radio and iTunes. It has been difficult to cope with the loss of our 105.1FM frequency, but we are certain we can serve the campus community to the best of our ability with the streaming system we have in place."

Many students will nostalgically remember the presence of having an on-air radio station, but the recent changes do not mean WNEK Radio, "The Voice" of Western New England University, need go un-

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Residence Life Responds to Housing Selection Issues

By: Kaylene Hersey

Evergreen is the most desiroble housing on campus
Imoge: Kaylene Hersey

This year, like many years, was very stressful when it came to housing selection. Housing areas like Evergreen and Southwood are always the most desirable. Most students have to wait until their senior year to live in either housing, and yet, this year, there seemed to be many seniors who were forced to make different arrangements because both of these housing areas were full.

There were many rumors flying around campus regarding the reason behind this, including that gender-neutral groups took all the rooms, groups with special treatment got their days pushed up and that because they closed Plymouth, a bunch of upcoming sophomores had somehow beat the system and all gotten into Evergreen.

According to Residence Life Director Sean Burke, the actual answer is size. The upcoming senior and junior classes are the biggest classes WNE has had in many years.

"The big difference this year was the size of the upcoming senior and junior classes. So, Evergreen and Southwood was filled up before seniors were even done selecting and the same thing happened with the juniors filling up Gateway before the juniors were done choosing. There were no unexpected issues. There were just bigger classes filling up those upper class areas," said Burke.

Not counting the RA apartments, there are 134 seniors in Evergreen out of the 172 spots. There are 31 juniors, which leaves only 7 sophomores. Evergreen this year was filled up basically by the end of the second day of senior picking.

"Percentage-wise, there are actually more seniors in Evergreen than last year, partially because last year we got pretty far to the end of senior selection before Evergreen was filled up," said Burke.

In Southwood, it is very similar. There are 83 seniors, 39 juniors and 10 sophomores, again not counting RAs. Seniors do have the greatest percent-

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News

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Housing continued from first page

age in both of these areas. However, there are approximately 325 upcoming seniors living on campus next year (as in the ones who have paid the housing deposit), which also counts any senior RAs and their senior roommates. This shows that there were bound to be some seniors that could not live in Southwood and Evergreen, even if Southwood and Evergreen were only juniors and seniors.

And this is what some students have suggested, that Southwood and Evergreen just be for juniors and senior or even, just for seniors.

"We have considered making Southwood and Evergreen just juniors and seniors or just seniors. It has been taken to student representatives and Student Senate before to see what they would think of that. I think the downside of it is that when we're going through senior week of selection, students are struggling to fill their apartment. You need six roommates to fill Evergreen and many of them are looking for their fifth or sixth roommate. If we didn't let them add juniors or sophomores, that would make more problems for some seniors to fill their apartment," said Burke.

He also added, "The other thing we hear from students consistently is if they're a senior they want to be able to live with who they want to live with. If they have a younger friend, or a younger sibling, they want to be able to use their senior privilege to get senior housing but still be able to live with their friends. That is the message we generally get from students, until we get to the end of the process and there are the students who didn't get into Evergreen and Southwood who are understandably upset about it and they say it's not fair that as a senior they didn't get in, but there are juniors living there. But if we changed it, there would just be another part of the senior class that is upset about it and would say it wasn't fair because they couldn't fill their apartment with their sophomore friend."

The Housing Process as of right now is based on credits and GPA. If there is one senior in a group, they do get to pick on a senior day. However, the less seniors and the less credits still do not give them a better day than a group with all seniors.

"As you get later in the first week, you will most likely see more mixed groups of juniors and seniors and some sophomores. The housing process goes on credits and GPA, so groups with all seniors have a better chance at getting a better day than a group with just one senior," said Burke.

Since the housing selections on campus can hold all the students, even without Plymouth, there is nothing in the works to create any other housing, especially with the underclassmen sizes.

"The class of 2016, when they become seniors, will probably be in a similar situation and Evergreen and Southwood will fill up more quickly than it has in previous years, but then, the class behind them is smaller so they will have less problems with picking," said Burke.

The Housing Selection Process like every year has created much stress in many students, but hopefully, in further years, with the smaller classes coming in, there will be less issues.

WNEK continued from first page

heard. WNEK staff is optimistic about the future of the station.

Treasurer John Connolly states, "It's a sad thing to know we are no longer on 105.1FM; on the other hand, WNEK can be very successful using online streaming if done correctly. I feel we have the personnel and direction to be successful in our future endeavors."

With these changes, the staff has prepared their requested budget for the upcoming year a little bit differently. Maturo states, "We are looking to upgrade our mobile DJ equipment to provide the power of music at events on campus and enhance the experience we give at events for which WNEK offers services. We are looking at upgrading our streaming service package from our current provider, Backbone, so our streaming service runs at maximum efficiency at all times to please our listeners."

Along with these changes, Maturo describes, "We are going through a re-branding process at the moment, in which we are actively planning a new station logo and looking into new promotion items, such as a banner, table cloth, and stickers. WNEK seeks to be a vital piece of the WNE community, and we are planning steps to achieve this goal with our re-branding, upgraded streaming services, and providing 24/7 entertainment to our listeners."

Finally, Maturo adds, "WNEK is part of large events, such as WNEK-Stock and the Golden Voice, where we collaborate with other clubs, such as GBTV and CAB, and we want to plan more events for students to enjoy, like a possible Halloween dance in October and a Late Night at the Rock event in November."

Please continue to show support for the student radio station as they transition to being entirely Internet-based by tuning in online.

Burger King is No Longer Replacing the Grille

Word around campus was that a Burger King would be replacing our beloved Grille Works food station. Though it had been confirmed that Aramark was looking into the option, due to student outcry, replacing The Grille Works with a Burger King is no longer an option for campus. According to Aramark Food Service Director, Roger Roberge, "At this point, Burger King is not an option nor is a change over the summer for this installation being implemented anymore." However, this is not to say that another food station will still replace The Grille Works at some point.

In terms of what the students would like, Student Senate has been and will continue to survey the student body regarding the restaurant of choice they would like to see added to the campus environment. "The information we gather from these surveys will directly affect what concept we do eventually launch," stated Roger Roberge. Until further information is available for publication, students should know that there may be a change in the future to The Grille, but Aramark is indeed keeping students' opinions in mind.

Entertainment

TV Review: The Big Bang Theory

By: Elizabeth Thompson

During season seven of The Big Bang Theory (TBBT) the characters have undergone a lot of new adventures. Not only that, but for fans everywhere, the cast of TBBT has signed up for three more seasons guaranteeing at least a tenth season.

One of the biggest TBBT news this season that has been all over my Tumblr page is Shammy. Amy Farrah Fowler first appeared on TBBT during season three when Howard and Raj signed Sheldon up for online dating - without his knowledge, of course. Throughout the past seasons, we have watched as their relationship slowly developed. It wasn't until season seven that the two finally kissed and we really started to see the progression of their relationship.

Along with this, James Parson, the actor who plays Sheldon, has now become

The Big Bang Theary is on its seventh season
Image: alphacaders.com

the hottest guy on my Tumblr page. The fans are obsessed with his new character identity - still a jerk and yet sweet and adorable at the same time.

The one problem I do have with the season is that as much as I love Shammy and think that they are hysterical and entertaining, I've noticed that the rest of the cast has dropped into the background. I understand that the creator's of TBBT are trying to give the audience what they want, but by doing that, the rest of the cast have become extras. Each episode I have watched of this season (admittedly I have not seen all of the episodes) has revolved mainly around Sheldon and his dilemmas with the rest of the cast as fillers.

There is so much more that they could go into. Howard and Bernadette, now that they are married and have gotten over the big hump (namely Mrs. Wolowitz,) their relationship and marriage has been at a stand still. Raj can now finally talk to women without needing to be drunk, and yet he still fails to find the one. Not to mention that in "Locomotive Manipulation" they introduce a potential love interest with Yvette and then drop it immediately after the introduction. They've also introduced Stuart as a more permanent member of the cast as he has been appearing more often and slowly making his way into the group. Lastly there is Lenard and Penny and their relationship too seems to be at a standstill. They act more as friends than boyfriend and girlfriend.

In the end, I will probably continue watching the show no matter how it progresses, though I would like to see that the attention of the cast be more well-rounded then focused on one or two characters. I feel as though it is a waste of their acting potential and possible story lines for them not to explore alternative paths.

Movie Review: Captain America, The Winter Soldier

By: Robert Gilchrist

Marvel Comics' most recent films, as of late, have been sub-par. It's understandable, considering that "The Avengers" raised the bar for not only the Marvel Cinematic Universe, but all superhero films. The "second wave" of Marvel films have had a hard time reaching the level of greatness that "Avengers" reached. Fortunately, their most recent release, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," soars above such duds as "Iron Man 3" and "Thor: The Dark World" by being something other than just another superhero flick.

"Winter Soldier" begins with Captain America (played by Chris Evans) working for the defense agency SHIELD, leading missions that are high security and full of danger. He is willing to put his life on the line time and time again, but being a man out of time puts him at ease. More often than not, he is troubled by the growing shadows that his work brings him into. Eventually, those shadows catch up to him as he, alongside Black Widow (played by Scarlett Johansson) must go on the run to expose a decades-long secret that could very well tear their world apart.

One of the reasons why "Winter Soldier" works so well is that it doesn't play into the typical tropes of a typical superhero movie. Instead, it branches out into more obscure genres of film. Similar to the way the original "Captain America" had the feel of a classic war movie, "Winter Soldier" has the mood of a classic spy tale, with our heroes working in the shadows and getting in too deep with government conspiracies. By not making the film feel like another superhero adventure with guys in colorful costumes running around punching each other, it distinguishes itself as its own type of movie, not just another notch in the Marvel moneymaking machine.

The acting also helps bring the movie head and shoulders above previous films in this world. Chris Evans brings a heavy gravitas to the role of Steve Rogers, making the viewer feel his pain at being a man out of his time. One scene in particular, involving an old love from the Nineteen-Forties, truly hammers home this idea of Steve being alone in a strange land.

The supporting cast also helps ground the film, with Scarlett Johansson, Anthony Mackie, and Sebastian Stan bringing unique dynamics to the film. Johansson in particular shines in this film, making viewers truly see how much of a fearsome and intimidating figure she can be when not overwhelmed by other heroes (like she was in "Avengers".) Robert Redford also manages to bring his usual charisma to the screen as a government big-wig involved with the overseeing of SHIELD. Samuel L. Jackson rounds out the cast as Nick Fury in a smaller, but more important (and more developing) role than he had in "Avengers."

The only downside to this movie is the villain, or choice of villain. The subtitle for this movie is "The Winter Soldier," yet this character only appears in a select few key scenes. The main baddie of the movie is kept in shadow for a good half of the movie, but rears its head and takes control of the action as the film progresses. As a fan of the comic book iteration of Winter Soldier, I was hoping to see his backstory fleshed out onscreen and in glorious detail. Instead, all we got was a quick flashback scene that lasted only a few seconds. Similar to "Iron Man 3" and "Thor 2," the character that should be the talk of the film is pushed off to the side. Hopefully we'll see more of the Winter Soldier in later Marvel movies, but it was a disappointment not to have him be front and center.

"The Avengers" redefined superhero films for a new generation of filmgoers. That change has left fans demanding more from their movies, and so far the second wave of Marvel flicks has disappointed. However, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" manages to buck that disappointment and bring in a real crowd-pleaser of a movie.

WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS ISSUE, PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY, INSTEAD, RETURN IT TO A STACK OF OTHER ISSUES OR RECYCLE

FEATURES

The Writing Center: An Inside Perspective on Conferences and Tutoring

By: Kaylene Hersey

When I was hired as a tutor for the Writing Center here at Western New England University two years ago, I did not fully know what I was doing. Sure, I knew I was going to be a tutor in writing, which is a subject I have always loved. However, the Writing Center is more than just a job to me. We all are a huge family and working there has taught me not only how to be a better writer and leader but how to be passionate about my work and job.

Besides tutoring students here on campus, we tutors are given the opportunity to attend many conferences about tutoring, teaching, and learning. This year, I attended and presented at two different conferences, NEPTA (New England Peer Tutoring Association) and NEWCA (North Eastern Writing Center Association.) Both of these conferences allowed me to learn more about tutoring, but also allowed us to share our own strategies and experiences with other tutors.

At NEWCA this year's theme was inclusion. The conference took place March 2 and 3. Our task was to show different ways our writing center creates inclusion within our campus. Each of the five tutors who presented focused on one of the ways our Writing Center strives to include everyone on campus. I focused on working with ESL and international Students. This year especially, we have seen an Increase of international and ESL students in our writing center. We have used many strategies in an attempt to make these students feel more welcomed on campus, such as one-on-one sessions where we just sit and talk with the students and our biweekly Tuesday night sessions. We also discussed our outreach program where we go to the other colleges on campus and to many of the classrooms to let the college know exactly what we do as a Writing Center (which for those who do not know, we don't actually proofread.)

Some of the Writing Center Tutors attended and presented at NEWCA
Image: Kaylene Hersey

We also presented our hiring process and Tutoring Practicum, where the newly hired tutors go through a semester long class focusing on both theories on tutoring and actual on-scene experience in the Writing Center. This presentation not only allowed us to help many other writing centers, but it allowed us to gain insight from other writing centers on what we could improve on, especially when it comes to getting our message out to the campus and helping students as a whole. For example, we had a big discussion at the end of our presentation about using more social media to get the campus more involved and learn more about us.

The NEPTA conference was definitely a more laid back conference. For one, it was Harry Potter themed. Yeah, it was pretty awesome relating everything we do at my job to my favorite childhood book. Our group created a more hands-on workshop. Our workshop had five volunteers, each who would have to tutor five common tutees we face in our writing center in a mock tutoring session, each one of them based on characters from Harry Potter. The five of us tutors all played the tutees in the mock tutoring sessions. These characters ranged from Dobby (the nervous, unconfident tutee) to the dementor (the tutee that sucks all the answers out of us.) It was fun and entertaining, but still a nice learning experience because we got to see all different tutors' strategies on how to work through these difficult sessions. We got to work with a bunch of different tutors such as math tutors and science tutors, but it was nice to see that even though we all work in different tutoring fields, we all had very similar techniques and similar stories to share.

Both presentations taught me a lot about tutoring, but it also opened the door to a big tutoring community. I also feel that not only have I improved as a tutor from my experience presenting, but it also brought me closer with the people I work with and allowed us to grow as a center as a whole.

Spring Safety Information

By: Sgt. Stacy Gamache

As better weather arrives more people are enjoying the outdoors. Watch out for pedestrians!

Employees, students, guests, and other visitors are consistently walking to and from our buildings. Motor vehicle operators must pay particular attention when operating their vehicles in the following areas. These areas WILL have a high volume of pedestrian and or bicycle (as well as other non-motorized means of transportation) traffic. Careless vehicle operation, especially in these areas, may lead to a serious accident or injury.

•Vehicles MUST yield the right of way to pedestrians – IT'S THE LAW!

•Pay special attention to roadway intersections with sidewalks or other walkways. (NOTE: some crosswalks are painted as to enhance their visibility, others are not.)

•Roadways that have parking spaces located directly adjacent (i.e. Evergreen Road – near Plymouth, Berkshire, Public Safety and the CUB; Upper Loop Road – near Sleith)

•Roadways that run in close proximity to Buildings. (Note: many of these are restricted to University Service Vehicles only)

•Entrances/Exits to, and roadways within, parking lots (i.e. CSP access road into the East Lot; Upper Loop Road into the West lot; Evergreen Road into the Quad Lot)

•Entering and Exiting individual parking spaces (especially: Quad Lot; East Lot; West Lot; Evergreen Lots; Southwood Lot; Campus Center Lot)

The Westerner Needs More Writers!

Do you have strong opinions? Do you like writing? Do you ever wish you were involved on campus? The Westerner Staff may be just the right thing for you!!

If you are interested in joining next year, email one of our staff members. Meetings will start up again next semester!

Features

Club Spotlight: Campus Chorus and Golden Bear Band

By: Sarah Wiles

The WNE music program has seen some changes over the past year, starting with the introduction of Dr. Amelia Nagoski as the Music Coordinator. Dr. Nagoski teaches music classes, directs our two choral ensembles, and advises the clubs Campus Chorus and the Golden Bear Band.

"I have loved my first year at WNE. Conducting a new choir can be scary, because my approach to conducting is very personal, but the singers figured it out fast, and were willing to give just as much as I was," said Nagoski.

With the addition of Dr. Nagoski, whose students fondly call her 'Dr. Amelia,' retention of chorus members has soared astronomically. Freddie Schiro, President of the Chorus, stated, "The choral groups this year have grown tremendously! I was very glad to have newcomers to the program, and I am glad that they have stayed. We have seen an increase in every section, and, on a personal note, I'm glad there are more tenors than last year's 'big three.' The Chorus has moved in a very positive direction. Unlike last year, we as singers and students get to decide on the pieces we want to sing, rather than just having pieces given to us. With the addition of Dr. Amelia came fun and energetic rehearsals, which keep singers coming back."

"I came in with the intention of not making any changes unless they were absolutely necessary.

The Campus Chorus and Golden Bear Band at their Music Banquet
Image: Amelia Nagoski

I wanted to find out what was already working, and didn't want to disrupt that. One of the things I perceive was new about my process is that I asked for student feedback on what repertoire to sing on our concerts, then used music they were interested in as a tool for teaching the performance skills and vocal techniques that make any performance artistic and entertaining. Another difference I perceive is that I ask students to make emotional honesty a priority in their performing. I spend time on technical training, and want performances to sound as good as possible, but it's even more important for the singers to find a connection between themselves and the affect of the music. That's where the art is," said Nagoski.

Another exciting change is the increased amount of programming the Band and Chorus have taken on this past year. Elise Duquette, President of the Band, stated, "The Band hosted a Late Night last semester with Spiritual Life, and this semester we did one again, adding the Chorus. By having student programs and getting more exposed on campus, it gets the music program more involved with other student organizations, and it gives students the opportunity to publicize the music groups while having fun. We are planning on hosting a Friday's event, hopefully next semester, with Band and Chorus possibly teaming up with another student organization. We've had a lot of student participation from members of Band and Chorus as well as other students, and we hope to continue having that at our future events and programs. The music department had a combined dinner social with the Band and Chorus this semester, and we are going to try to plan an arts banquet for next year that encompasses all arts groups on campus, similar to a sports banquet. This would have music, theater, and art groups come together and learn more about what each group has done over the year and get to spend time with each other."

Schiro added, "This year we had programs that would help get our name out in the Springfield and WNE communities. We had a lot of success with our Nick Page event, and I hope we can do it again. I also hope to plan a small showcase at the local nursing home, since we did this my freshman year and it was a great success."

At this past Spring Showcase, for the first time, the Band and Chorus performed the Alma Mater together. Duquette said, "We hope to continue that for future concerts."

Additionally, the Band performed at this year's Breaking of the Silence ceremony, hosted by the WNE GSA. Dr. Nagoski was able to conduct the performance, which students said was really cool.

The Band and Chorus also participated in this year's Earth Day celebration hosted by the Global Sustainability Club.

One of the most active times for the Band and Chorus is the week before classes start, when they have Music Camp. During this week, both ensembles rehearse every day and get to know one another. They generally eat dinner together in the dining hall, and there are various programs throughout the week to facilitate group bonding, such as game nights, movie showings, and one big outing off campus for all participants of Camp. They spend all week preparing for various performances for the students, including the Convocation ceremony for all incoming first-year students and their parents.

Although they can sometimes stay under the radar, do not be fooled - the WNE Campus Chorus and Golden Bear Band are very active groups on campus, working harder and harder each year to increase their presence in student life.

2014 Spring Event Concert starring Andy Grammer & Boyce Avenue

When: April 24th at 8 pm (doors close at 8:30)

Where: HLC

Haven't bought your ticket yet? You better hurry! Tickets are on sale until the day of the show! Students can buy them online at wneu.universitytickets.com. Tickets are $10 for students & $15 for Faculty, Law Students & Guests

Opinion

Qualms and Quarrels: Advice Column

Q: I'm graduating at the end of the semester, and besides freaking out about that, I'm debating whether or not I should stay for a masters program related to my major. What should I do? *–Freaking Out Graduate*

A: My darling senior, please do not worry. You can figure this out! But please, do not make this any harder than it needs to be. You need to think about this matter in a few different ways in order to come to a decision that is best for you.

For one thing, think about how long it will take you to achieve a master's degree. Is your program of interest a one year program? Two years? Maybe even longer? However much longer it will take you to achieve this goal, are you willing and able to put the time in, or are you preparing for a job that staying in school will prevent you from attending class?

Once you know the answers to these basic questions, think about the financial arguments. If you know that this higher degree will absolutely benefit you in getting a more lucrative career, then the money is probably worth your spending. However, if you think otherwise, will earning a higher degree truly make a difference within your career? Another aspect to consider is whether or not you are prepared to spend more money, or whether or not you are currently planning to be paying off any undergraduate loans you may have.

When it all comes down to it, what is most important is that you choose to earn a higher degree for all of the right reasons. Do not do this because you are scared to graduate or want to stay in school longer before having to really go out and live your life. But, if you know earning this higher degree will benefit you in the long run, go for it. Get the best paying job you can get, one you love, with the degrees you have rightfully earned and worked for! Good luck in making your decision and I wish you all the best!

Opinions on Opinions

By: Stefani Feole

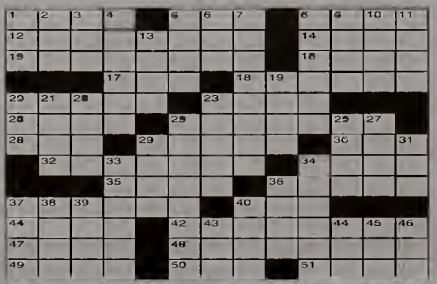
Everyone has his or her own opinion. Some people are more vocal about them while others tend to keep them to themselves; both are acceptable however. I for one do not often keep opinions to myself. Opinions are very touchy simply because there is a great difference between verbalizing a certain perspective, opinion, view, or belief and when one can not respect another's opinion, that this may cause a conflict. The most important aspect to being vocal about an opinion is learning to respect others while discussing them in a calm state of mind.

There are far too many reasons as to why all Thanksgiving dinner tables come with a disclaimer, warning everyone invited to stay away from talking about politics, religion, and money. In the Feole household, this also includes the topic of sports! Consider life to be one big Thanksgiving dinner table because, unless you are speaking to your governor, priest, or accountant, no one wants to hear such opinions on these subject matters. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule. If all parties speaking on these controversial subject matters are able to engage themselves in a mature conversation, then speaking to these topics can be effective and create room for change and progression within our society.

Without having opinions, there is no way that our world would be as diverse and accepting as it is today. I think it is important for individuals to express themselves in an appropriate and well thought out manner; thinking before speaking is a must. With the responsibility of stating one's opinion comes the ability to respect the fact that others are going to have conflicting opinions. To express one's opinion, being brave and having the ability to stick up for what they believe in while not forgetting to respect others, is the key. If one does not respect and understand others when speaking their mind, one cannot expect that same respect back.

While some or even many of you may not necessarily agree with my views, I respect that, and I do hope that you all can respect me as a person for having different views. I encourage opinions that contradict my views because mature conversations and respect for others allow for better understandings of all parties involved.

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Pickle flavor
5 Collection
8 Lingerie items
12 Fragrant climbing plant
14 40-Across part
15 Outing for Neil Armstrong
16 Addict
17 Little louse
18 Mistakes in print
20 Confuse
23 Ignore
24 Not closed
25 Under-the-table flirtation
28 Golfer Michelle
29 A deadly sin
30 Wet dirt
32 Weather conditions
34 Challenge
35 Downs or Grant
36 Devilish sort
37 Armadas
40 Listener
41 Small bit
42 Henry Hudson's ship
47 Tea hour
48 Natural aptitude
49 Oklahoma city
50 Bakery buy
51 Third son

DOWN
1 Brit. mil. award
2 — Jima
3 Zodiac feline
4 One of the Beatles
5 Argument
6 Conger, for one
7 Pay heed
8 Book jacket
quotes
9 Passenger Parks
10 Help a crook
11 Will be (Sp.)
13 Tiny branch
19 "The Sultan of Swat"
20 Arrow launcher
21 Grand-scale tale
22 Sense
23 Reality, old-style
25 Largest store in a chain
26 Mosque VIP
27 Continental coin
29 Pornography
31 Lair
33 "— It Through the Grapevine"
34 Skin
36 Crazy
37 Mini-flute?
38 Exemplar of craziness
39 Needle case
40 Otherwise
43 Blackbird
44 Individual
45 Autumn mo.
46 To the — degree

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1			5			7		4
		7		9				8
	3				8		9	
		2	4				1	
	7			1				6
6					5	9		
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		5			7		2	
7			2			6		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Opinion

How Fine Are You?

By:Stefani Feole

I want to first state that I do not condone lying in relationships. Thus, the "I'm Fine" lie spoken in many of these relationships, although not acceptable, does deserves some attention, as it is a far too common of an occurrence.

The "I'm Fine" lie spoken in relationships is probably one of the largest lies that girls have and continue to use towards their significant others, at one point or another. Although these two small words, "I'm" and "Fine," do qualify as stating a lie, there is no harm done unless the significant other fails to persist in finding out what is truly wrong. It is important to be persistent when it comes to this lie, or any lie for that matter, that couples may come across within their relationships.

On the other hand, men who say that they are, "fine," are generally not fine either. Men, however, tend to use this lie in order to move on from current situations, whereas women often use this common lie to attract someone who is willing to hear them out in times of doubt or need. Men have a quick rebound rate so it is recommended to either give them their space or talk about a completely irrelevant topic in order to avoid unnecessary arguments that neither of you want to get involved with.

There are many different lies that can be told in relationships. While I believe that each person within a relationship should be completely and utterly honest with their significant other, sometimes everyone finds himself or herself in a lie about something that is bothering them. Lying is never okay to engage in so try your absolute best to be upfront and honest about what makes you uncomfortable, even if you think it is silly. Honesty is the best policy but if you happen to throw an "I'm Fine" lie around here and there, it is not the end of the world; however, you are going to want to make sure you handle these words with care.

Freedom of Religion Means Any Religion

By: Spencer Ives

Far too often I've seen the basic constitutional right of freedom of religion be either attacked, or unwittingly restricted. Far too many people see this as a multiple choice question with only four answers; are you (a) Christian, (b) Jewish, (c) Muslim, or (d) none of the above? In my opinion, this is an unacceptable simplification of a much larger picture. A person, under the First Amendment has their free choice to believe or follow whichever theology they see fit. It is not a matter for other people to decide which religions "count" or should be included. It is an open ended choice, and should be treated as such.

A primary point: this does not give any person the right to decide which religions are acceptable and which are not. There have been people that argue that Muslims should not be allowed in this country because of recent terrorist attacks. This is not a call for anyone to make. An entire religion cannot be condemned due to the actions of few. Just as the Westborough Baptist Church is, with their controversial views of this country and active stance against those in the military, a branch of Christianity, yet, the entirety of Christianity, is not questioned as to whether it should belong in this country or not. It is a grossly unfair judgment to make, deciding that certain religions do not belong in this country.

Secondly, religious intolerance can exist on any scale, be it between different sects of Christianity, or the wholesale disregard and discrediting of a faith. It is not up to any individual to make the declaration that one set of beliefs or another is not a religion. There are many alternative religions that people have a right to choose from. One thing I have noticed is the belief that certain religions don't "count" as being religions. A person may be Scientologist, Christian, Pagan, Jewish, Muslim, Wiccan, Satanist, Shinto, Luciferian, Baha'i, Buddhist, or participate in whichever faith they see fit. It is absolutely not a question of which views and beliefs are considered to be "real" and which are not.

Religions are entire belief systems and in each, a variable spectrum that any member can place themselves on. There are no inherently "evil" or "good" religions; likewise, there are none that make peaceful or aggressive individuals. A religion is not an absolute signifier of one's character. The true mark of who a person is, is their character. Religion does not make or define people; rather it is a set of beliefs for people to believe in, if they so choose to.

Finals are coming up and everyone's stressed. The best cure for that is Improv on the Rocks! Their Senior Showcase is May 2nd from 8-10 pm in the Rock! Come support the troupe and the graduating seniors, Drew Jarrett, Matt Johnston & Frank Maturo for the last show of the year!

Interested in joining the Westerner? Next semester, writing for the Westerner will now be offered as a 1 credit course here at Western New England! Email a staff member and come to our first meeting next semester if you are interested in joining and we will sign you up for the course!

Sports

Golden Bears Baseball Surging

By: Michael Masciadrelli

The Golden Bears Baseball team are tied for third in the Commonwealth Coast Conference Image. Becky Tumer

On April 13th, the Golden Bears Baseball team outscored their opponent 29-2. This particular Sunday was no rest day for the Golden Bears as they came out swinging against Wentworth College in Wenham, MA.

Shortstop Kevin Marciano went five for eight during the doubleheader against Wentworth. He knocked in an RBI double in the second inning of game one and later brought home teammate Kyle Maglio for his third RBI. Marciano racked up three hits, scored two runs, and also cashed in three additional RBI's in their second win against Wentworth. The shortstop continues to show to be an offensive force for the Golden Bears this season.

This season the Golden Bears have went 8-4 in conference play and 12-14 overall. They have won five conference games in a row dating back to Salve Regina on March 29th.

Their home matches against Curry were not as high scoring as their games against Wentworth but didn't disappoint in excitement. Both games were decided by one run, but each time the Golden Bears found a way to come out on top. As Western New England found their way to a 4-3 win in game 1, Junior Steve Buckley clinched it for the Golden Bears with a walk-off single with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth. The Golden Bears were originally trailing 3-1 entering the seventh inning, but were able to rally and get the win. Their second game was highlighted by a complete game by Junior starter Trevor Breton, only allowing the one run and recording seven strikeouts. Right fielder, Steve Ambrosino punched in the deciding run in the fifth inning putting the Golden Bears on top for good.

As a result of a stellar week against Curry and Wentworth, Marciano was awarded Player of the Week for the Commonwealth Coast Conference. The sophomore put together a .433 batting average, had a team-leading thirteen runs batted in, stole eight bases, and scored seven runs in eight games. He was not alone in the awards column for the week. Freshman third baseman David Morin, claimed Rookie of the Week for the Commonwealth Coast Conference. Morin is currently on a five game hitting streak in conference play while hitting .533 (8-for-15) with one home run, and five RBI's. His first home run turned out to be a grand slam against Wentworth.

The Golden Bears currently sit tied for third in the Commonwealth Coast Conference with Salve Regina. push past the eighth place Lions and put themselves in the best position heading into postseason play.

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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■	■	■	H	U	G	H	■	D	E	M	O	N	
E	L	E	E	I	S	■	E	A	R	■	■	■	
I	O	I	A	■	H	A	L	E	M	O	O	N	
E	O	U	R	■	I	N	S	I	I	N	G	I	
E	N	I	D	■	P	I	E	■	S	E	I	H	

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

1	9	8	5	2	6	7	3	4
5	2	7	3	9	4	1	6	8
4	3	6	1	7	8	2	9	5
8	5	2	4	6	9	3	1	7
9	7	3	8	1	2	4	5	6
6	1	4	7	3	5	9	8	2
2	4	9	6	8	1	5	7	3
3	6	5	9	4	7	8	2	1
7	8	1	2	5	3	6	4	9